

FORWARD WORK PROGRAM

2015–16 to 2018–19



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Notes to this Publication

Resources

Resource costs presented in this publication reflect estimates for the three years 2015-16 to 2017-18. These costs present a broad indication of the resources currently allocated to each program but should not be taken as an accurate basis for estimating future allocations.

Estimates for 2018-19 were not yet finalised at the detailed program level at the time of publication so are not included.

The 2015-16 figures are full-year projections based on the agreed budget for the year. Projections for 2016-17 and 2017-18 are subject to change as priorities are reviewed and new budgets are agreed.

The projections for all three years reflect all expenditure attributable to the programs presented in this publication.



Preface

For over 100 years, the ABS has contributed to the wellbeing of Australia through informed decision making by governments, business and the community.

The delivery of census and statistics is recognised in Australia's Constitution, and the legislation under which the ABS operates has a broad remit and significant requirements to collect and report information.

Over coming years, the ABS will continue to focus on delivering quality, timely information that meets a range of user needs. At the same time, we will be giving greater attention to innovating what we do and how we work, partly in response to the dynamic information environment that is opening up new opportunities and expectations.

The ABS does not have the resources to undertake all the activities that fall within our legislative mandate that our users would like. This has always been the case, and I expect the ABS will always need to make choices about what it can and what it cannot deliver within its funding.

This is why the ABS consults with key users on our work program, and we then need to make choices which seek to make the best use of the resources provided by the Australian Government in order to maximise the value of our statistics to our key stakeholders and the community. The ABS also receives additional funding for specific activities, still consistent with our legislative mandate, but which could not be funded within our limited budget appropriation.

During 2015-16, we will have a number of key priorities:

- ▶ We will continue to prioritise timely delivery of quality economic and population statistics.
- ▶ Preparations are well underway for our first predominantly digital Census of Population and Housing, to be held on Tuesday 9 August 2016. The Census remains Australia's largest peacetime logistical exercise, and the next Census is no exception, with very significant implementation activities planned for 2015-16, building on preparations over past years.
- ▶ We will take the first steps to implement the historic additional Australian Government investment of \$250 million over the next five years, announced in the 2015-16 Budget, to transform the ABS's ageing and fragile statistical infrastructure. This is a key part of the overall transformation of the ABS.
- ▶ We will continue to progress the broader transformation of the ABS, in particular to strengthen our partnerships and drive high performance across the organisation.

I encourage you to take the time to read through our Forward Work Program to get a fuller understanding of what the ABS expects to deliver, and the magnitude of the changes we have planned for the ABS.

David W. Kalisch

Australian Statistician
September 2015

Overview of the ABS

The ABS is Australia's national statistical agency.

The agency was established as the Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics following enactment of the *Census and Statistics Act 1905*. It became the Australian Bureau of Statistics in 1975 with the passing of the *Australian Bureau of Statistics Act 1975*. This Act also established the role of the Australian Statistician and defined the functions of the ABS.

ABS VISION

Statistics, well understood and wisely used, have the power to improve outcomes for Australia. The ABS will undergo major transformation over the next five years and this transformation is the key to achieving our vision of **unleashing the power of statistics for a better Australia**.

THE ROLE OF THE ABS

The ABS provides trusted statistics on a wide range of economic, social, population and environmental matters of importance for government, business and the community. It also has a leadership role to coordinate the statistical operations of official bodies and liaise with international organisations.

CENSUS AND STATISTICS ACT 1905

The *Census and Statistics Act 1905*:

- ▶ empowers the Australian Statistician to collect statistical information on a broad range of demographic, economic, environmental and social topics
- ▶ enables the Australian Statistician to direct a person to provide statistical information, in which case they are legally obliged to do so
- ▶ requires the ABS to publish the results of these statistical collections
- ▶ places a life-long obligation on all ABS officers to maintain the secrecy of information collected under the Act, and provides harsh penalties for those who fail to do so.

AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS ACT 1975

The *Australian Bureau of Statistics Act 1975* describes the six functions of the ABS as being to:

- ▶ constitute the central statistical authority for the Australian Government and provide services for the state and territory governments
- ▶ collect, compile, analyse and disseminate statistics and related information
- ▶ ensure coordination of the operations of official bodies in the collection, compilation and dissemination of statistics and related information
- ▶ develop standards for statistics and ensure compliance
- ▶ give advice and assistance to official bodies in relation to statistics
- ▶ provide liaison between Australia, other countries and international organisations on statistical issues.

AUSTRALIAN STATISTICS ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Australian Statistics Advisory Council (ASAC) is the key advisory body to the Minister and the ABS in relation to our statistical functions. ASAC provides valuable input to the directions and priorities for the ABS work program, and reports annually to Parliament. ASAC meets at least twice a year, and Council members are chosen to represent a broad cross-section of perspectives, covering government, business, academic and community interests. All state and territory governments are represented.

AUSTRALIAN PUBLIC SERVICE VALUES

The ABS and its staff uphold the Australian Public Service (APS) Values and Code of Conduct.

Impartial

The APS is apolitical and provides the Government with advice that is frank, honest, timely and based on the best available evidence.

The ABS demonstrates this value by providing professional and objective statistical solutions with integrity, which are timely and fit-for-purpose.

Committed to service

The APS is professional, objective, innovative and efficient, and works collaboratively to achieve the best results for the Australian community and the Government.

The ABS demonstrates this value by delivering the priority information that Australia needs; being innovative, responsive and agile; and by collaborating to maximise the value of public information.

Accountable

The APS is open and accountable to the Australian community under the law and within the framework of Ministerial responsibility.

The ABS demonstrates this value by using resources efficiently and effectively; and adopting sound statistical methods and transparent practices.

Respectful

The APS respects all people, including their rights and their heritage.

The ABS demonstrates this value by engaging with stakeholders and providers in a respectful and professional manner; seeking to minimise respondent burden; and valuing diverse perspectives across our workforce and stakeholders.

Ethical

The APS demonstrates leadership, is trustworthy, and acts with integrity, in all that it does.

The ABS demonstrates this value by making decisions about priorities and resource use which seek to maximise the public benefit; and improving the accessibility of information to all while protecting the confidentiality of sensitive information provided to us.

The ABS leadership team

Australian Statistician



David W. Kalisch

Deputy Australian Statisticians



Christine Barron (A/g)
Statistical Services Group



Trevor Sutton
Statistical Business Transformation Group



Jonathan Palmer
Chief Operating Officer
Enabling Services Group

General Managers



Bruce Hockman
Macroeconomic Statistics Division



Jacky Hodges (A/g)
Industry Statistics Division



Paul Jelfs
Population & Social Statistics Division



Gemma Van Halderen
Strategic Partnerships & Projects Division



Gillian Nicoll (A/g)
Statistical Business Transformation Program



Siu-Ming Tam
Methodology Division



Patrick Hadley
Chief Information Officer
Technology Services Division



Duncan Young (A/g)
Census & Statistical Network Services Division



Chris Libreri (A/g)
Governance, People & Culture Division

Program Managers



Bernard Williams
Labour & Income
Branch



Ian Ewing
National Accounts
Branch



Paul Mahoney
International &
Government Finance
Accounts Branch



Marcel van Kints
Prices Branch



Dean Bowley
Business
Characteristics &
Indicators Branch



Tom Joseph
Industry & Labour
Demand Branch



Branko Vitas (A/g)
Environment &
Agriculture Branch



Graeme Brown
Statistical
Infrastructure &
International Branch



AJ Lanyon
Population Branch



Michelle Marquardt
(A/g)
Health & Disability
Branch



Judy Henson
Education, Crime &
Culture Branch



Julie Nankervis (A/g)
Indigenous Statistics &
Reporting Branch



David Zago
Household Surveys
Branch



Lewis Conn
Strategic Partnerships
Branch



Celia Moss
Transforming People
Statistics Branch



Michael Smedes
Transforming
Economic Statistics
Branch



Bindi Kindermann (A/g)
Data Integration
Microdata Futures
Branch



Adrian Bugg
Acquire Branch



Bill Allen
Process & Analyse
Branch



Michael Beahan
Disseminate Branch



Michael Meagher (A/g)
Foundational
Infrastructure Branch



Tim Montgomery (A/g)
Statistical Business
Transformation Program
Delivery Office



Sybille McKeown (A/g)
Methodology
Transformation
Branch



Paul Schubert
Statistical Methodology
Branch



Chris Duffy
Technology Applications
Branch



Helen Robson (A/g)
Technology Infrastructure
Branch



Lane Masterton
Technology Capability
Branch



Andrew Henderson
Data Acquisition &
Provider Management
Branch



Jenny Telford (A/g)
Census Branch



Warren Rushby (A/g)
Chief Financial Officer
Chief Financial Officer
Branch



Ruth McArdle (A/g)
Communications
& Dissemination
Branch



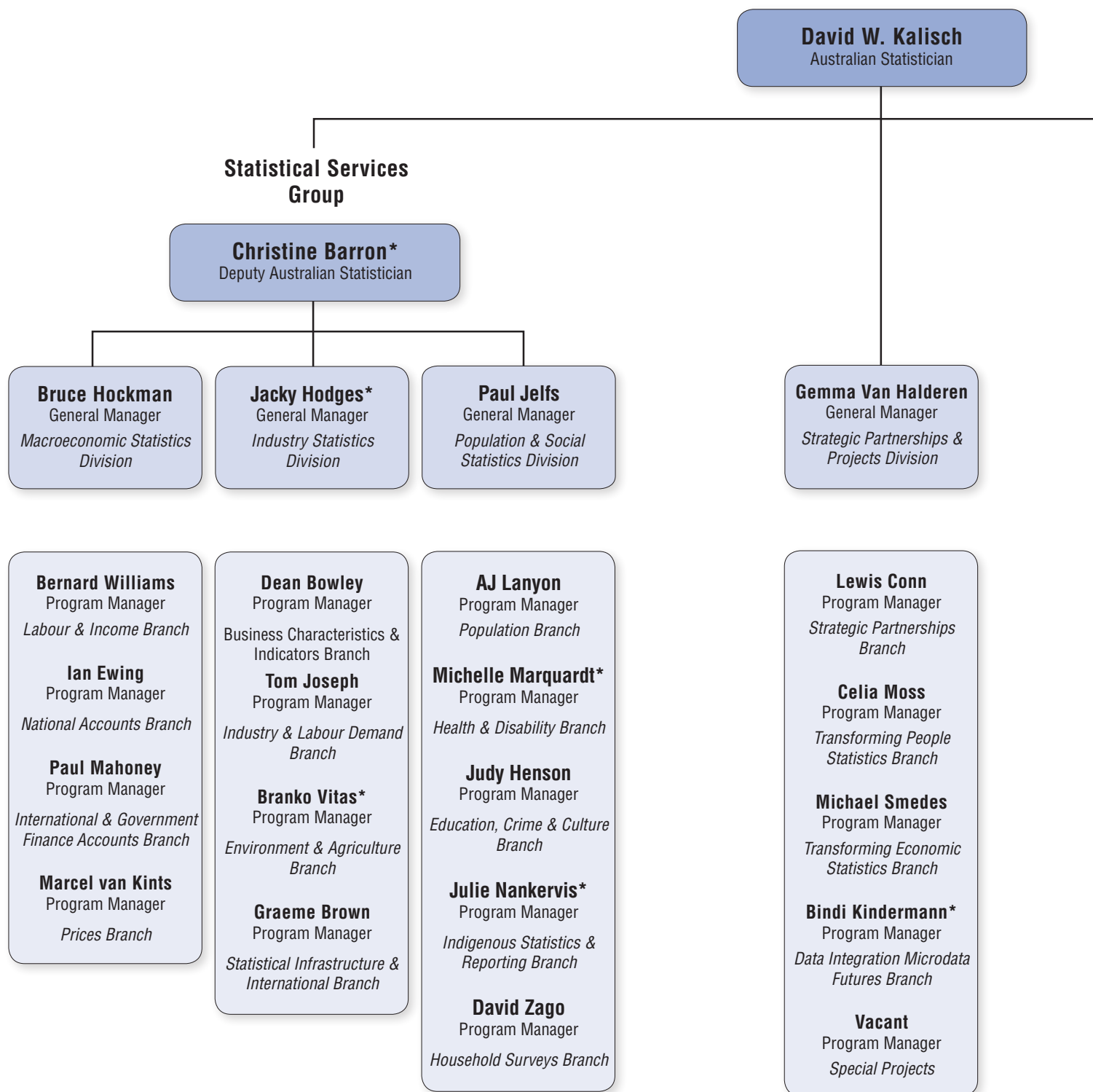
Donna Nicholson
Human Resources
Branch



Christine Williams
Governance &
Parliamentary Liaison
Branch

(A/g) = Acting

Organisational structure



Note: *Individual is acting in this role

Statistical Business Transformation Group

Trevor Sutton
Deputy Australian Statistician

Enabling Services Group

Jonathan Palmer
Deputy Australian Statistician & Chief Operating Officer

Gillian Nicoll*
General Manager
Statistical Business Transformation Program

Siu-Ming Tam
General Manager
Methodology Division

Patrick Hadley
Chief Information Officer
Technology Services Division

Duncan Young*
General Manager
Census & Statistical Network Services Division

Chris Libreri*
General Manager
Governance, People & Culture Division

Adrian Bugg
Program Manager
Acquire Branch

Bill Allen
Program Manager
Process & Analyse Branch

Michael Beahan
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Vacant
Program Manager
New System & Process Testing & Acceptance Branch

Ruth McArdle*
Program Manager
Communications & Dissemination Branch

Donna Nicholson*
Program Manager
Human Resources Branch

Christine Williams
Program Manager
Governance & Parliamentary Liaison Branch

Warren Rushby*
Chief Financial Officer
Chief Financial Officer Branch

ABS STRATEGIC DIRECTION AND PRIORITIES

The environment in which the ABS operates is changing, and the ABS recognises the need to significantly transform across all aspects of the organisation if we are to realise our vision of unleashing the power of statistics for a better Australia, and achieve our objectives.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION

The ABS's key strategic direction is to transform for the future. In order to achieve this, the ABS has a set of transformation goals.

Transformation goals

Over the next five years, the ABS will implement a wide reaching transformation program, supported by a new structure and governance arrangements, and substantial Government investment in modernising our infrastructure. Transformation will enable the ABS to engage better with partners, develop more responsive solutions, make the best use of technologies, and be a high performing organisation. The goals of the transformation are described against six organisational elements:

Environment

We collaborate with stakeholders to understand and respond to the current and future external environment.

Strategy

Our strategies enable rigorous statistics, strong partnerships, and effective use of resources.

Governance

Our governance supports responsive decision making, prioritisation and management of enterprise risk.

People

We have a diverse, expert, motivated and agile workforce.

Culture

We are high performing, aligned, engaged, innovative and accountable.

Infrastructure

Our infrastructure is effective, efficient and adaptable.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

While we transform, our strategic priorities are to:

Deliver high quality official statistics

- ▶ continue to deliver quality, timely statistics on important matters
- ▶ maximise the value of public data through integration and improved access.

Strengthen our partnerships

- ▶ engage and partner to build statistical solutions and capability
- ▶ reduce the burden on respondents and protect the confidentiality of information provided.

Drive high performance

- ▶ innovate to facilitate more agile and efficient outcomes
- ▶ use technology wisely to transform our infrastructure and processes
- ▶ promote a high performance culture.

OBJECTIVES

The ABS will evaluate its success at delivering on its role and function against the following objectives:

Informed decisions

Decisions on important matters are informed by quality official statistics and value-added statistical solutions

Trust and support

Government, business and the community continue to trust us and have confidence in our statistics

A dynamic statistical system

We are a collaborative partner in building a responsive national statistical system that meets current and future requirements.

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

A key strategic priority for the ABS is to revitalise stakeholder engagement across government, business and the statistical community. We have developed an engagement strategy to ensure we are a connected and responsive partner in government, open to meeting the needs and expectations of our stakeholders.

The ABS is working to strengthen its relationships with the providers and users of its data, including Australian households, businesses and governments, to ensure it is able to perform its statutory functions well. This includes consulting with data providers and instituting procedures that minimise the burden of providing data to the ABS. It also includes consulting with data users to ensure the range of statistics collected and disseminated by the ABS is appropriate to their needs. The key data users for our programs, including Government data users, are set out throughout this document, as part of the description of each ABS program.

The ABS will work transparently with stakeholders to develop its work program. Collaborative partnerships with Australian, state and territory government agencies contribute to a strong national statistical system. Active engagement and consultation with key stakeholders, including the Australian Government and the Australian Statistics Advisory Council, to prioritise and determine the annual ABS Forward Work Program will ensure we continue to meet Australia's information requirements now and into the future.

For further information on the strategic direction, priorities, objectives and transformation agenda, please see the ABS Corporate Plan (cat. no. 1005.0).

SHAPING THE ABS STATISTICAL FORWARD WORK PROGRAM

WORK PROGRAM TIERS

During 2014 and 2015, in consultation with stakeholders and informed through development of *Essential Statistical Assets for Australia* (cat. no. 1395.0), components of the ABS statistical program were categorised in four tiers.

These tiers are used to assist with the prioritisation of work program.

	Tier	Component
Core	Tier 0	Essential institutional statistical capability and infrastructure required to deliver a quality national statistical service and remain relevant and sustainable as Australia's National Statistical Organisation. This includes systems and processes, methods, people capability, register and frames and standards, classifications and conceptual frameworks, data integration, dissemination and technology capabilities.
	Tier 1	Statistics that are considered to be the foundation work of a national statistical organisation.
	Tier 2	Important areas of statistics where there is a significant government outlay or where there is a significant public policy interest.
Other	Tier 3	Other important statistical work that is currently undertaken to meet identified user requirements that could be deemed as falling beyond tiers 1 and 2.

From 2015, the ABS will implement a new approach to determining the ABS statistical forward work program, which includes publishing a work program prioritisation document, including the categorisation outlined above, as part of this Forward Work Program publication, and engaging with governments, users and other stakeholders on the prioritisation. Following the consultation, the ABS will seek input from the Australian Statistics Advisory Council and the Australian Government into the final determination of the statistical forward work program.

The ABS work program by tier component of this publication, provided in the appendix to this publication, provides the categorisation of each element of the work program to a tier.

PRINCIPLES TO BE APPLIED IN PRIORITISING THE FUTURE ABS WORK PROGRAM

In order to operate within its appropriation, the ABS will:

1. Maintain its organisational infrastructure, knowledge and capability, so as not to erode its capacity to operate as a credible and responsive developed country National Statistical Organisation (NSO) across the four fields of economic, population, social and environmental statistics consistent with the scope of our legislated functions.
2. Maintain the scope or quality of statistics in a manner that ensures public confidence in the accuracy and relevance of the data.
3. Maintain statistical programs that are generally regarded as critical to effective governance and an efficient economy.
4. In other areas of work:
 - ▶ give higher priority to retaining program elements which deliver the highest public benefit in terms of the scale and scope of public spending and/or public policy reliance on the data (i.e. those areas where ABS statistics make a significant difference in the targeting of spending or other public policy decisions)
 - ▶ give lower priority to elements where there are current or potential alternative sources of data that could be substituted for ABS statistics.

CRITERIA FOR ACHIEVING AN APPROPRIATE BALANCE IN THE ABS WORK PROGRAM

The ABS does not have the resources to undertake all of the activities that fall within its mandate and which users would ideally require.

In balancing the ABS's program of collection and other activities, the Statistician seeks to ensure that ABS resources are used to the maximum benefit of Australian governments and the broader community. In assessing this, the ABS takes account of the value of the information being sought, the extent to which the ABS undertaking the activity would make a difference, and the costs that the activity would impose upon the ABS and the broader community.

In assessing the value of the information, the ABS carefully considers: the importance of the issue from a public policy and/or community interest perspective; views of Australian and state/territory government agencies; the depth and breadth of user interest in the wider community; opinions of recognised experts in the field; the extent to which the information would impact on decision making; and any international reporting obligations.

In assessing the extent to whether the ABS undertaking the proposed activity would make a difference, the ABS also considers: any specific legislative obligations on the ABS to undertake the activity; the statistical measurability of the issue, including the ability to provide information that is fit-for-purpose; the extent to which other available sources of information, both other ABS and non-ABS, could be used to inform decision making; and the extent to which the ABS's independent voice of authority, and power to collect information, is required in determining the timing and frequency of the activity, the decision making time-frames and the expected rate of change in the information sought.

In assessing the cost of the activity, the ABS takes account of: the full cost to the ABS of undertaking the collection activity; the capacity and capability of the ABS to undertake the collection activity; the workload and other costs imposed on providers; and the sensitivity of the information and the ABS's requirement to maintain the trust of providers.

USER FUNDED ACTIVITIES

The ABS encourages stakeholders to consider funding statistical activities, particularly around lower priority activities discussed in the next section. The ABS undertakes user funded work where:

- ▶ the work is consistent with the ABS's legislative mandate and the APS values
- ▶ the work itself, or the related funding arrangements, does not 'crowd out', compromise public support for, or otherwise put at risk the 'core' work program funded by direct Parliamentary appropriations
- ▶ there is demonstrable value in the activity, the ABS undertaking the activity would make a difference, and the costs imposed on providers are acceptable
- ▶ the ABS has the capability and capacity to undertake the work.

STATISTICAL PARTNERSHIPS



Program Manager

Lewis Conn
Strategic Partnerships
Branch

Resources

Program costs	\$m
2015-16	10.4
2016-17	8.9
2017-18	9.0

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

OBJECTIVES

The Strategic Partnerships program provides a focus for open and engaged partnerships to drive strategic projects across the national statistical system. It ensures the ABS remains relevant to the changing needs of its partners and supports the ABS's transformation into a more responsive and integral partner with government. Specifically, this new program will lead wide consultation on issues, opportunities and options to reshape the ABS's legislative and governance framework to meet changing national priorities more effectively. The program will work with all levels of government and the community, and will support other areas of the ABS which are engaging with its partners, to:

- ▶ develop a business case to modernise the legislative and governance framework of the ABS
- ▶ improve coordination across the statistical system and reduce duplication through coordination and the development of a National Statistics Policy
- ▶ develop and improve statistical infrastructure and capability
- ▶ coordinate and support jurisdictional activities for ABS programs and progress national statistical priorities.

OUTPUTS

Outputs and outcomes of the program for 2015-16 to 2018-19 will be:

- ▶ progressing, in a highly consultative way, the modernisation of the ABS's legislation and governance framework
- ▶ progressing strategic initiatives with partners to encourage investment in high quality statistics and statistical capability as public assets, as well as to improve access, sharing and use of official statistics which meet the high priority needs of users
- ▶ support for external statistical governance fora within and across jurisdictions to advance national priorities and the use of statistical information
- ▶ provision of advice and intelligence to ABS programs on relevant national and jurisdictional statistical priorities and emerging issues
- ▶ promoting the importance of the Census across all levels of government, and providing input into planning of the Census in intercensal years.

DEVELOPMENTS

The Strategic Partnerships program will focus on the following strategic priorities for the ABS:

- ▶ revitalising stakeholder engagement as a central pillar of the ABS's organisational culture as a key activity from the Capability Action Plan, guided by the ABS Engagement Strategy – due 2015-16
- ▶ making improvements to Australia's statistical system including finalising a National Statistics Policy – ongoing
- ▶ supporting open and engaged partnerships across governments and the statistical community to strengthen the national statistical system – ongoing
- ▶ unlocking the potential of key administrative data holdings held by governments to enhance the official statistics evidence base for decision-making purposes, for example, through data integration initiatives – ongoing
- ▶ strategically positioning external statistical governance fora to focus on priority areas and provide opportunities for engagement on key policy issues – ongoing.

STATISTICAL PRODUCTION



Program Manager

Ian Ewing
National Accounts Branch

Resources

Program costs	\$m
2015-16	8.3
2016-17	9.3
2017-18	9.3

NATIONAL ACCOUNTS

OBJECTIVES

The National Accounts program provides quarterly and annual data about the level of economic activity; pattern of economic growth; and structure of the Australian and state economies within a coherent system of concepts and classifications.

The main clients of the program are Australian government agencies (in particular the Department of the Treasury); Reserve Bank of Australia; state and territory government agencies (in particular state and territory treasuries); international organisations such as the International Monetary Fund and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development; economic analysts in the private sector; the media; and academics.

National Accounts information is used to formulate and assess government fiscal and monetary macroeconomic policies; assist in allocating Australian Government funds to state governments; formulate industry development policies; undertake financial and business planning; and facilitate international economic comparisons.

OUTPUTS

The main outputs of the program are the following publications, which provide comprehensive measures of Australia's macroeconomic performance and economic structure:

- ▶ Australian National Accounts: National Income, Expenditure and Product (cat. no. 5206.0), produced quarterly
- ▶ Australian National Accounts: Finance and Wealth (cat. no. 5232.0), produced quarterly
- ▶ Australian System of National Accounts (cat. no. 5204.0), produced annually.

The key series relate to current price and volume measures of Australia's Gross Domestic Product broken down into its components. In the quarterly publications, most data are published in seasonally adjusted and trend terms. The publications also show estimates for income and capital accounts for the nation and sectors. Data on financial transactions, intersectoral flows and financial and household balance sheet positions are provided quarterly. Balance sheets for the nation and sectors are compiled annually. The annual publication also includes a range of economic data by industry as well as capital stock and productivity estimates.

Other key outputs are:

- ▶ Australian National Accounts: State Accounts (cat. no. 5220.0), which provides annual estimates of economic growth for each state and territory
- ▶ Australian National Accounts: Input-Output Tables (cat. no. 5209.0.55.001), which provides a detailed articulation of the structure of economic production by detailing the flows of products into and between industries and their use for consumption, investment or export
- ▶ Estimates of Industry Multifactor Productivity (cat. no. 5260.0.55.002), which provide a range of productivity estimates at the industry level, as well as productivity estimates on both a value added and gross output basis, presented on an hours worked and quality adjusted hours worked basis.

The program provides seminars, training courses and other information to assist economic analysts in understanding and using National Accounts statistics.

DEVELOPMENTS

The main medium-term developments in the program are to:

- ▶ improve coverage of services industries by increasing the scope of input collections and investigating additional data sources – ongoing
- ▶ improve inputs into productivity estimates, taking on board insights gained from the compilation of these estimates. Produce combined capital, labour, energy, materials and services productivity estimates on an experimental basis – due in 2017
- ▶ contribute to international research of topics identified as needing further work during the update of the System of National Accounts, with an emphasis on the concept of income and of capital services – ongoing.

Program Manager

Bernard Williams
Labour & Income Branch

Resources

Program costs	\$m
2015-16	6.9
2016-17	8.2
2017-18	7.5

LABOUR STATISTICS

OBJECTIVES

The Labour Statistics program provides evidence to support labour market, economic and social analysis through the provision of high quality labour statistics in a timely, efficient and effective manner. The program provides information about the structure and performance of the labour market, including statistics on labour force participation, employment, hours worked, unemployment and labour under-utilisation) vacancies, employment conditions and working arrangements, employee earnings and labour costs, and workplace relations.

Labour statistics are used extensively in the analysis, evaluation, and monitoring of the economy; the labour market; and a wide range of government policies and programs (such as those relating to employment, income support and workplace relations). Statistics on labour costs and aggregate hours worked are also used in compiling the Australian National Accounts.

The main clients of the program are Australian Government agencies (including the Department of the Treasury; the Reserve Bank of Australia; the Fair Work Commission; the Productivity Commission; the Commonwealth Grants Commission and the Departments of Employment, Education and Social Services); state and territory government agencies; industry associations; trade unions; and academic researchers.

OUTPUTS

Key statistics on labour supply, including labour force participation, employment, unemployment, under-utilisation and hours worked, are published in:

- ▶ Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0)
- ▶ Labour Force, Australia, Detailed-Electronic Delivery (cat. no. 6291.0.55.001)
- ▶ Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, Quarterly (cat. no. 6291.0.55.003).

Statistics on particular aspects of labour supply, such as labour mobility, underemployment, job search experience, retirement and retirement intentions, barriers and incentives to labour force participation, and marginal attachment to the labour force, are published periodically.

Statistics on job vacancies, i.e. unmet demand for labour, are released quarterly in Job Vacancies, Australia (cat. no. 6354.0). Statistics on characteristics of employees' working arrangements, working time arrangements, forms of employment, independent contracting, and labour hire are also published periodically. Statistics about industrial relations include quarterly industrial disputes, and trade union membership, award and agreement coverage.

Statistics on average weekly earnings of employees are released biannually in Average Weekly Earnings, Australia (cat. no. 6302.0). Employee earnings data are available annually together with employment and demographic characteristics. Earnings and employment data for the public sector are available annually. Distributional data on employee earnings and hours, and occupational earnings are available every two years. Data on major labour costs are produced on an infrequent basis.

DEVELOPMENTS

The main medium-term developments in the program are to:

- ▶ finalise the implementation of the recommendations from a review of the content of the labour household survey program – due December 2015
- ▶ implement the outcomes from the review of the industrial disputes statistics – due March quarter 2017
- ▶ implement alternative estimation methods for remote communities included in the Labour Force Survey – due June 2016
- ▶ develop new products to improve labour market statistics including a conceptual model for a Linked Employer-Employee Dataset – due June 2016
- ▶ develop a core set of statistical standards for labour household and business survey data items and additional conceptual frameworks for labour market statistics (including for workplace relations, non-standard working arrangements and marginal attachment) – due June 2017.

Program Manager

Marcel van Kints
Prices Branch

Resources

Program costs	\$m
2015-16	9.3
2016-17	9.4
2017-18	9.8

PRICES STATISTICS

OBJECTIVES

The Prices Statistics program compiles a number of main economic indicators: the Consumer Price Index (CPI); the Residential Property Price Indexes (RPPIs) and the total value of the dwelling stock; the Wage Price Index (WPI); and a range of Producer Price Indexes and International Trade Price Indexes (PPIs and ITPIs). The program also produces Selected Living Cost Indexes (SLCIs) which include the Pensioner and Beneficiary Living Costs Index (PBLCI) and Analytical Living Cost Indexes for selected Australian households.

The program uses information papers, seminars and other means to promote a greater understanding of the concepts, sources and methods of price indexes within the local, national and international communities.

The main clients for program outputs are the Reserve Bank of Australia, the Department of the Treasury, and the Australian government departments of Employment, Education and Social Services. Australian, state and territory government agencies whose payments are indexed, economic analysts, and the general business community are also clients of the Prices program.

The main uses of the key prices indicators are as follows:

- ▶ CPI is a general measure of household inflation. It is used: to produce volume estimates for components of the Australian National Accounts; as a basis for indexing government payments, superannuation payments and government taxes and charges; as an input into salary and wage negotiations; and for indexation of government bonds and business contracts.
- ▶ RPPIs measure price change of the stock of dwellings over time. The total value of the dwelling stock is also produced. These statistics are used to analyse trends in the housing market and changes in the value of the housing stock.
- ▶ WPI is a measure of wage inflation. It is used: as an input into wage setting negotiations; to produce volume estimates for components of the Australian National Accounts; and for indexation of business contracts.
- ▶ The PPIs and ITPIs support the compilation of National Accounts and Balance of Payments statistics. They are also an indicator of domestic and international producer inflation from an Australian perspective and are frequently used for contract indexation purposes.
- ▶ SLCIs are analytical series used to measure the impact of price changes on the out-of-pocket living costs experienced by employee households, age pensioner households, other government benefit recipient households and self-funded retiree households. Specifically, the PBLCI is used as a basis for indexing pensions and other payments to government benefit recipients.

OUTPUTS

The main program outputs are the following quarterly publications:

- ▶ Consumer Price Index, Australia (cat. no. 6401.0)
- ▶ Residential Property Price Indexes: Eight Capital Cities (cat. no. 6416.0)
- ▶ Wage Price Index, Australia (cat. no. 6345.0)
- ▶ Producer Price Indexes, Australia (cat. no. 6427.0)
- ▶ International Trade Price Indexes, Australia (cat. no. 6457.0)
- ▶ Selected Living Cost Indexes, Australia (cat. no. 6467.0).

DEVELOPMENTS

The main medium-term developments in the program are to:

- ▶ implement the PPI re-weight program to update the underlying quantities for the fixed basket used in the compilation of the index, using weights derived from the 2012-13 National Accounts Input-Output tables – due September 2016
- ▶ continue to expand the use of transactions data to compile official price statistics – due June 2017
- ▶ continue the services PPI expansion program which was commenced in 2011, expanding into telecommunications, engineering construction, human health and education services – due June 2017.

General Manager

Duncan Young (A/g)
Census & Statistical
Network Services Division

Program Managers

Andrew Henderson
Data Acquisition &
Provider Management
Branch

Jenny Telford (A/g)
Census Branch

Resources

Program costs	\$m
2015-16	87.8
2016-17	225.0
2017-18	45.2

2016 CENSUS OF POPULATION AND HOUSING PROGRAM

OBJECTIVES

The Census program conducts the Australian Census of Population and Housing. The program aims to measure the number and key characteristics of people in Australia on Census night, and the dwellings in which they live, accurately and efficiently. The next Census will be conducted on 9 August 2016 and will be Australia's 17th national Census. This will be the first Census in our nation's history where most households will participate in the Census online and field operations will be largely digitised with minimal reliance on paper material. This is a significant transformation for Census taking around the world and will set the foundation for the future of all statistical collections undertaken by the ABS.

The Census is a key source of Australia-wide comprehensive statistical information on small geographic areas and small population groups and is used to support planning, administration, policy development and evaluation by governments, businesses and other users. Increasingly, data from the Census is used to complement and integrate with other statistical solutions to expand the range of available data on a wide range of topics.

OUTPUTS

The results of the 2016 Census will be made available in 2017. The ABS is committed to the development of a range of statistical solutions to maximise the use of Census data and support a wide range of customer needs. Statistical solutions for the 2016 Census are still in development but will include:

- ▶ QuickStats and Community Profiles in which Census data is available for specified locations and topics of interest
- ▶ TableBuilder which allows the construction of customised data tables via an interactive web interface across any topics or geography, with output available in tabular, graphical or map based format
- ▶ a wide range of analytical articles that present easily accessible commentary and social analysis on key topics of policy relevance and public interest
- ▶ Census data packs to enable large scale extraction of Census data for reuse and export to other systems
- ▶ socioeconomic indexes for areas which provide summary measures of different aspects of the socioeconomic conditions of people in a specific geographic area
- ▶ the Australian Census Longitudinal Dataset, which brings together records from the 2006 and 2011 Censuses with corresponding records from the 2016 Census, using data linkage techniques to explore how Australian society is changing over time
- ▶ a number of other integrated datasets providing further insight into income, health, education, migrants and Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait islanders
- ▶ a range of interactive engagement tools leveraging emerging technologies to bring Census data to new audiences
- ▶ microdata solutions to support detailed analytical and research needs.

Where specialised information needs cannot be met by standard products, customised data services are available through ABS Information Consultancy.

DEVELOPMENTS

The main medium-term developments in the program are to:

- ▶ undertake a large scale recruitment campaign to engage around 39,000 Australians to help us run the Census – ongoing from September 2015
- ▶ complete the development of an Address Register to support 2016 Census operations and move the register into long-term maintenance to support broader use across the ABS – due December 2015
- ▶ finalise the development of all aspects of Census operations and technology infrastructure to support 2016 Census activities – due May 2016
- ▶ establish a paper data capture centre to support the receipt and scanning of an anticipated four million paper forms – due May 2016
- ▶ establish a data coding centre to support the processing of data for the 2016 Census and recruit up to 500 staff to undertake processing operations in 2016 – due May 2016
- ▶ complete enumeration activities for the 2016 Census using a transformed model that will see most Australians receiving their Census materials via Australia Post – due August 2016

- ▶ undertake wide-spread community consultation and engagement to build awareness and involvement in the Census – ongoing
- ▶ prepare a comprehensive and targeted advertising and public relations campaign to maximise participation for the 2016 Census – ongoing
- ▶ consult with customers to finalise the development of the statistical solutions that will support the release of Census data – ongoing
- ▶ deliver the first results of the Census on time, to budget and with a focus on maximising statistical quality – due June 2017.

REFERENCES

All Census data, Census products and a range of information on the Census is available at: www.abs.gov.au/census.

Program Manager

AJ Lanyon
Population Branch

Resources

Program costs	\$m
2015-16	3.5
2016-17	2.8
2017-18	2.9

DEMOGRAPHY

OBJECTIVES

The key objective of the Demography program is to produce estimates of the recent and projected population and analysis of the components of population change (births, deaths, and migration) and related demographic trends. These data are provided at the national, state, territory, and regional level, as well as for the Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population.

These statistics are produced to:

- ▶ meet a range of legislative requirements that make reference to population estimates
- ▶ assist in the formulation and monitoring of government policies, and in the planning and administration of government programs
- ▶ enable planning and market analyses by businesses and community organisations
- ▶ enable research and analyses by governments, businesses, academic institutions and others into the causes and consequences of population change.

Reflecting the use of population estimates for electoral and funding purposes, the main clients of the program are: Australian and state/territory-level electoral commissions, treasuries, and grants commissions. Within the ABS, demographic estimates and projections are the basis for population survey benchmarks. Other clients include agencies concerned with issues associated with migration and multicultural affairs, local area planning, health, education, the Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, family and community services, the environment and international tourism. The program also works to build capacity of government agencies to understand and use demographic data and statistics, and supports the development of civil registration systems in Asia and the Pacific region.

OUTPUTS

The program's key outputs are population estimates published in Australian Demographic Statistics (cat. no. 3101.0). The program produces estimates of the total population by age, sex, country of birth and geographical distribution; estimates of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population; and estimates of families and households.

Regular statistics are also produced on births, fertility rates, marriages and divorces, deaths, mortality rates, life expectancy, international migration as well as interstate and internal migration. Projections of population, families and households according to specified demographic assumptions are published on a regular basis. Population benchmarks are provided for use in the ABS and other population surveys. Regular statistics based on the movements of overseas arrivals and departures are also produced.

Major publications include:

- ▶ Australian Demographic Statistics (cat. no. 3101.0)
- ▶ Births, Australia (cat. no. 3301.0)
- ▶ Deaths, Australia (cat. no. 3302.0)
- ▶ Marriages and Divorces, Australia (cat. no. 3310.0)
- ▶ Regional Population Growth, Australia (cat. no. 3218.0)
- ▶ Population Projections, Australia (cat. no. 3222.0)
- ▶ Household and Family Projections, Australia (cat. no. 3236.0)
- ▶ Estimates and Projections, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians (cat. no. 3238.0)
- ▶ Australian Historical Population Statistics (cat. no. 3105.0.65.001).

DEVELOPMENTS

The main medium-term developments in the program are to:

- ▶ develop 2016 Post Enumeration Survey and undertake scenario testing and planning for population rebasing in the lead-up to the Census – by August 2016
- ▶ integrate Norfolk Island into Australia's official demographic statistics, including Estimated Resident Population – by August 2016
- ▶ explore the feasibility of producing annual Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population estimates using direct demographic methods and other techniques – ongoing
- ▶ explore new methods for producing net overseas migration and overseas arrivals and departures statistics which are less reliant on data collected on physical passenger cards, in line with plans to reform border operations and future traveller systems and processes – ongoing
- ▶ improve harmonisation of births and deaths data, enhance coordination between data providers, and improve connections with data users through the National Civil Registration and Statistics Improvement Committee – ongoing.

Program Manager

Dean Bowley
Business Characteristics &
Indicators Branch

Resources

Program costs	\$m
2015-16	2.7
2016-17	2.3
2017-18	2.4

BUSINESS INDICATORS

OBJECTIVES

The Business Indicators program produces statistics related to business activity. The program includes:

- ▶ monthly turnover by selected retail industries and the takeaway food services industry
- ▶ quarterly company profits, inventories, sales and labour costs
- ▶ quarterly actual and expected new capital expenditure
- ▶ quarterly actual and expected mineral and petroleum exploration
- ▶ biannual expected mineral and petroleum expenditure.

These statistics are used for the compilation of the Australian National Accounts and are important indicators of economic activity in their own right. The main clients of the program include: the Department of the Treasury; the Reserve Bank of Australia; various state and territory government departments; banks; industry associations; and other financial analysts and commentators.

OUTPUTS

The key statistical outputs of the program are:

- ▶ Retail Trade, Australia (cat. no. 8501.0) – monthly
- ▶ Private New Capital Expenditure and Expected Expenditure, Australia (cat. no. 5625.0) – quarterly
- ▶ Mineral and Petroleum Exploration, Australia (cat. no. 8412.0) – quarterly
- ▶ Business Indicators, Australia (cat. no. 5676.0) – quarterly.

Each publication contains both national and state level data and estimates in original, seasonally adjusted and trend terms. Business Indicators, Australia provides information on sales, labour costs, company profits and inventories. All of these publications except Mineral and Petroleum Exploration, Australia present current price data by industry. Where appropriate, estimates are presented as chain volume measures.

DEVELOPMENTS

The main medium-term developments in the program are to:

- ▶ continue to extend coverage of Retail Trade to include selected service industries. The next inclusion will be an experimental time series for Communication Services – due December 2015
- ▶ continue to explore alternative data sources to support an activity-based approach to household consumption expenditure measurement verses an industry-based approach – ongoing.

Program Manager

Paul Mahoney
International &
Government Finance
Accounts Branch

Resources

Program costs	\$m
2015-16	4.8
2016-17	5.0
2017-18	5.0

INTERNATIONAL ACCOUNTS

OBJECTIVES

The International Accounts program provides statistics on Australia's balance of payments, international investment position, merchandise trade and international trade in services. The statistics are compiled from a range of surveys and administrative data sources with merchandise trade statistics derived from records lodged with the Australian Border Force.

The main users of the international accounts data are economic and industry analysts and policy advisers in Australian government agencies; private sector economic analysts and dealers; academics; the media; and international organisations. Australian government agencies that are extensive data users include the Department of the Treasury; the Reserve Bank of Australia; the Productivity Commission; Austrade; and the departments of: Foreign Affairs and Trade; Prime Minister and Cabinet; and Industry and Science.

The statistics are used to analyse Australia's external performance, formulate and evaluate macroeconomic policy (including trade policy, trade treaties and foreign investment policy), analyse trends in income, capital flows and patterns of investment into and out of the economy, and undertake international comparisons. The International Accounts are inputs to the Australian National Accounts, providing the external transactions accounts and the external assets and liabilities components of the national balance sheet.

OUTPUTS

The program produces a range of statistical publications, classifications and methodological information. The key outputs include:

- ▶ Balance of Payments and International Investment Position, Australia (cat. no. 5302.0), which presents a comprehensive set of international accounts statistics including chain volume measures for trade in goods and services and seasonally adjusted data for the current account
- ▶ International Trade in Goods and Services, Australia (cat. no. 5368.0), which provides monthly information on exports and imports of goods and services on a balance of payments basis as well as information on merchandise exports and imports on a recorded trade basis
- ▶ International Merchandise Imports, Australia (cat. no. 5439.0), which provides summary information on Australia's merchandise imports for the latest reference month, on a recorded trade basis
- ▶ Australian Harmonised Export Commodity Classification (cat. no. 1233.0)
- ▶ International Trade in Services by Country, by State and by Detailed Services Category, Calendar Year (cat. no. 5368.0.55.004)
- ▶ International Trade in Services by Country, by State and by Detailed Services Category, Financial Year (cat. no. 5368.0.55.003)
- ▶ International Investment Position Australia: Supplementary Statistics (cat. no. 5352.0), which provides calendar year international investment position, financial account and primary income data by partner country, and international investment position and financial account data by industry for direct investment.

Very detailed merchandise trade export and import statistics classified by commodity, country of trading partner, state, industry of origin, and broad economic category can be obtained from ABS Information Consultancy Services.

DEVELOPMENTS

The main medium-term developments in the program are to:

- ▶ review the International Accounts statistical outputs to ensure the information produced remains relevant for policy decisions – due September 2015
- ▶ expand and release the International Accounts Concepts, Sources and Methods (cat. no. 5331.0) – due June 2016
- ▶ release the international Trade in Services Concepts, Sources and Methods – due December 2016
- ▶ implement the Harmonised System 2017 update for merchandise trade – due February 2017.

Program Manager

Paul Mahoney
International &
Government Finance
Accounts Branch

Resources

Program costs	\$m
2015-16	2.5
2016-17	2.5
2017-18	2.5

PUBLIC SECTOR ACCOUNTS

OBJECTIVES

The Public Sector Accounts program provides Government Finance Statistics (GFS) in respect of the Australian, state and territory governments, their public financial and non-financial corporations, universities and local governments. The statistics are compiled predominantly from government accounting systems.

The main users of the program include various Australian Government agencies (in particular the Department of the Treasury, the Commonwealth Grants Commission, the Productivity Commission, and the departments of: Finance; Education; Employment; and Health), state and territory government agencies (in particular state treasuries), financial market analysts and international agencies.

GFS are used to monitor the financial performance of governments and to inform on the economic impact of government activities. They are also used to assist in the distribution of Australian Government grants to state governments.

GFS are an important input to the Australian National Accounts, providing income and expenditure estimates for the public sector.

OUTPUTS

The program produces a number of GFS publications each year, compiled in accordance with the International Monetary Fund's Government Finance Statistics Manual 2001. The key outputs are:

- ▶ Government Finance Statistics, Australia (cat. no. 5512.0), which is produced annually and provides an operating statement, balance sheet and cash flow statement for the most recent year for each of the Australian, state, territory and local governments for the general government, and public non-financial and financial corporations
- ▶ Taxation Revenue, Australia (cat. no. 5506.0), which provides information on revenue from taxation of the Australian Government, the state and territory governments and local government authorities in Australia annually
- ▶ Government Finance Statistics, Education, Australia (cat. no. 5518.0.55.001), which provides annual statistics on government expenditure in the field of education
- ▶ Government Finance Statistics, Australia (cat. no. 5519.0.55.001), which provides operating statements for general government and public non-financial corporations sector aggregates on a quarterly basis.

The program also produces Australian System of Government Finance Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods (cat. no. 5514.0), which is updated in line with changes to international standards. The next major update to this manual is expected by the end of 2015.

DEVELOPMENTS

The main medium-term developments in the program are to:

- ▶ implement revised international GFS standards in ABS statistics – due end 2017
- ▶ provide determinations on the classification of public sector units – ongoing
- ▶ assist the Department of the Treasury, Department of Finance and state and territory treasuries with interpreting GFS standards and reconciling with Australian accounting standards – ongoing
- ▶ provide GFS technical assistance to selected countries in Asia and the Pacific region – ongoing.

Program Manager

Dean Bowley
Business Characteristics &
Indicators Branch

Resources

Program costs	\$m
2015-16	1.9
2016-17	1.9
2017-18	2.0

FINANCIAL STATISTICS

OBJECTIVES

The Financial Statistics program produces statistics on the financial assets, liabilities, borrowing and lending of financial institutions, and on the stocks and flows of finance for the sectors of the economy. The statistics are sourced from several ABS statistical surveys and other data sources including the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority (APRA) and the Australian Taxation Office.

The main users of the program include the main financial policy agencies (including the Department of the Treasury and the Reserve Bank of Australia) and financial institutions, industry associations, analysts and state and territory treasuries.

The statistics are used for analysis of monetary policy outcomes, for monitoring the flows in the financial system, and for assessing the financial performance of the economic sectors or institutional classes. Housing finance commitment statistics are used as one of the indicators of consumer sentiment and, together with personal, commercial and lease finance commitment statistics, are used as forward indicators of demand in the economy.

These statistics are used for the compilation of the Australian National Accounts, predominantly the financial accounts.

OUTPUTS

The key outputs for the program include:

- ▶ Managed Funds, Australia (cat. no. 5655.0), which includes quarterly statistics for cash management trusts; superannuation funds; life insurance corporations; public unit trusts; common funds; and friendly societies
- ▶ Assets and Liabilities of Australian Securitised (cat. no. 5232.0.55.001), which provides quarterly information on securitisation trusts
- ▶ Housing Finance, Australia (cat. no. 5609.0), which includes monthly information on finance commitments for owner occupation and investment housing, as well as balances outstanding on housing finance loans
- ▶ Lending Finance, Australia (cat. no. 5671.0), which provides monthly statistics on commercial, personal and lease finance commitments.

The program also compiles the source data for the quarterly publication Australian National Accounts: Financial Accounts (cat. no. 5232.0), which is a component of the Australian National Accounts.

DEVELOPMENTS

The main medium-term developments in the program are to:

- ▶ work with APRA to finalise development, and implementation of a statistical superannuation collection – due July 2016
- ▶ work with the Reserve Bank of Australia and APRA to develop a domestic books collection form for authorised deposit-taking institutions and registered financial corporations – due December 2018.

Program Manager

Dean Bowley
Business Characteristics &
Indicators Branch

Resources

Program costs	\$m
2015-16	1.9
2016-17	1.9
2017-18	1.9

BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION STATISTICS

OBJECTIVES

The Building and Construction Statistics program produces a range of statistics about dwelling and other building approvals as well as construction related gross fixed capital formation in Australia. The program includes:

- ▶ the monthly major economic indicator on the number of residential dwellings approved and the value of residential and non-residential buildings approved
- ▶ quarterly statistics on the amount of building construction activity – residential and non-residential building
- ▶ quarterly statistics on the amount of other construction activity such as roads, railways, pipelines and harbours.

These statistics are used for the compilation of the Australian National Accounts and they are also widely used for economic monitoring and forecasting. The main clients include: the Department of the Treasury; the Reserve Bank of Australia; state and territory agencies; industry organisations and associations; and financial and academic institutions. Construction statistics are also used for construction industry, finance and investment sector analysis, and in understanding population change.

OUTPUTS

The main outputs of the program are:

- ▶ Building Approvals, Australia (cat. no. 8731.0), providing monthly building approvals statistics which are a leading indicator of future building activity
- ▶ Construction Work Done, Australia, Preliminary (cat. no. 8755.0), providing quarterly preliminary statistics on the amount of construction activity across both buildings and structures other than buildings
- ▶ Building Activity, Australia (cat. no. 8752.0), providing quarterly revised and more detailed statistics on the amount of building construction activity
- ▶ Engineering Construction Activity, Australia (cat. no. 8762.0), providing quarterly revised and more detailed statistics on the amount of activity on construction other than building.

Specific user requirements such as more detailed data or other data items, are available by request.

DEVELOPMENTS

The main medium term development in the program is to establish key partnerships with state government for collection of building approvals data, making data more widely accessible and reducing the burden on local government – ongoing.

Program Manager

Bernard Williams

Labour & Income Branch

Resources

Program costs	\$m
2015-16	1.3
2016-17	1.2
2017-18	1.3

INCOME AND HOUSING STATISTICS

OBJECTIVES

The Income and Housing Statistics program provides statistical leadership, standards development and information for a broad picture of the economic wellbeing of the Australian population. It provides statistics covering a range of topics including income, expenditure, wealth, housing, homelessness, and superannuation.

The program's statistics are used to support policy development, program delivery and program evaluation of key government agencies involved in social services, taxation, housing, and homelessness.

OUTPUTS

The program produces a range of outputs including frameworks and standards, information development plans, statistical products, information/technical papers, guides and analytical articles. The key publications for the program include:

- ▶ Census of Population and Housing: Estimating Homelessness (cat. no. 2049.0)
- ▶ Housing Occupancy and Costs, Australia (cat. no. 4130.0)
- ▶ Household Income and Income Distribution, Australia (cat. no. 6523.0)
- ▶ Government Benefits, Taxes and Household Income (cat. no. 6537.0).

DEVELOPMENTS

The main medium-term developments in the program are to:

- ▶ publish results from the 2013-14 cycle of Survey of Income and Housing – from August 2015
- ▶ provide support to the 2016 Census of Population and Housing, in particular the development of the Homelessness Enumeration Strategy – due in August 2016
- ▶ update and publish statistical standards relating to income and housing (revisions due to commence mid 2016): publish first Australian wealth standards – from late 2017
- ▶ develop and publish results from the 2015-16 Household Income and Expenditure Survey, including a new fiscal incidence study – from mid 2017
- ▶ develop new survey methodologies for the production of household economic wellbeing data that is more integrated and makes better use of administrative data – ongoing.

Program Manager

Dean Bowley
Business Characteristics
& Indicators Branch

Resources

Program costs	\$m
2015-16	4.5
2016-17	3.9
2017-18	4.0

INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY

OBJECTIVES

The Innovation and Technology Statistics program produces statistics to assist understanding of the impact of research and experimental development, innovation and new technologies on economic and social outcomes.

The program provides measures of: the penetration and use of selected new technologies, particularly information and communication technology (ICT), within Australia, for both businesses and households; research and experimental development undertaken by businesses, governments, higher education institutions and private not for profit organisations; and innovation for Australian businesses. The program also provides the Expanded Analytical Business Longitudinal Database, which is a tool for understanding business activity and possible links to business performance and productivity. These statistics are used for the compilation of the Australian National Accounts.

Clients and partners of the program include: Australian government agencies such as the departments of: Communications; Industry and Science; and Education as well as the Productivity Commission and Australian Communications and Media Authority; the Reserve Bank of Australia; state and territory government departments; industry associations; research organisations; universities; and businesses.

OUTPUTS

The program produces a range of statistical outputs, showing:

- ▶ use of ICT by Australian businesses and households
- ▶ internet activity conducted through the Australian Internet Service Provider industry
- ▶ innovation activities undertaken within the Australian economy
- ▶ research and experimental development undertaken by businesses, government, universities and private non-profit organisations
- ▶ selected business characteristics data.

The program is responsible for the collection and publication of Venture Capital and Later Stage Private Equity statistics on an annual basis. This work is user funded.

Using the Expanded Analytical Business Longitudinal Database, the program undertakes analytical work related to innovation and technology, in particular, how these relate to performance and productivity.

The program contributes to the work of national and international agencies, through input to the review and development of relevant statistical standards and frameworks. Related research papers and discussion papers are made available via the ABS website.

DEVELOPMENTS

The main medium-term developments in the program are to:

- ▶ implement the outcomes of the review of ICT statistics in conjunction with key stakeholders – due by December 2016 (depending on endorsement of report by relevant Ministers)
- ▶ increase the capacity to undertake firm-level analysis of microeconomic drivers of performance, productivity, and improving the evidence base for policy development and evaluation – due 2018.

Program Manager

Tom Joseph
Industry & Labour Demand
Branch

Resources

Program costs	\$m
2015-16	6.5
2016-17	5.9
2017-18	5.6

The level of funding for this program in the out-years has not been agreed.

INDUSTRY STATISTICS

OBJECTIVES

The Industry Statistics program provides information about the structure, financial operations, performance and production of Australian industries. The information is used to monitor the economy and the business cycle, and support the compilation of the Australian National Accounts and Environmental Economic Accounts.

The program consists of annual economy wide statistics from a collection program composed of core and flexible elements that cover the entire economy.

The main clients include: the Department of the Treasury; the Reserve Bank of Australia; the Productivity Commission; the Department of Industry and Science; the Department of Environment; state and territory agencies; industry organisations and associations; and financial and academic institutions.

As the program outputs are a key input to the Australian National Accounts and Environmental Economic Accounts, they are widely used for economic monitoring and forecasting.

OUTPUTS

The main output of the program is the annual publication Australian Industry (cat. no. 8155.0) which provides national estimates of income; expenses; wages and salaries; operating profit before tax; industry value added; operating businesses; employment; and selected business performance measures at industry division and subdivision levels. Other outputs include statistical data releases for Australian industries such as Mining Operations Australia (cat. no. 8415.0).

Additional detail on the industries covered in the flexible elements of the program is published in:

- ▶ Information, Media and Telecommunications, Australia, 2013-14 (cat. no. 8681.0)
- ▶ Australian National Accounts: Non-Profit Institutions Satellite Account (cat. no. 5256.0).

DEVELOPMENTS

The main medium-term developments in the program are to:

- ▶ release Australian Industry 2014-15 outputs – due May 2016
- ▶ release Arts and Recreation Services 2014-15 outputs – due June 2016
- ▶ review Australian Industry outputs with key stakeholders to ensure relevance to contemporary micro-economic policy issues – due June 2016
- ▶ release Energy, Water and Environment Survey 2014-15 outputs – due July 2016
- ▶ improve the measurement of the services economy and capital stock and services – ongoing
- ▶ extend the depth and quality of industry statistics through business taxation and other administrative data, synthetic estimation and/or modelling techniques – ongoing.

Program Manager

Branko Vitas (A/g)
Environment & Agriculture
Branch

Resources

Program costs	\$m
2015-16	6.1
2016-17	5.9
2017-18	3.7

The level of funding for this program in the out-years has not been agreed.

AGRICULTURE STATISTICS

OBJECTIVES

The Agriculture Statistics program provides timely and relevant data to inform decision making by the Australian and state and territory governments, industry organisations, the academic sector and the wider community on issues important for agricultural policy determination at the national, state and regional levels. These issues include the productivity and competitiveness of the agriculture sector, food security and natural resource management. Data from the program directly supports the Australian National Accounts and Water Account.

OUTPUTS

The program produces:

- ▶ Principal Agricultural Commodities, Australia, Preliminary (cat. no. 7111.0)
- ▶ Value of Principal Agricultural Commodities Produced, Australia, Preliminary (cat. no. 7501.0) Agricultural Commodities, Australia (cat. no. 7121.0)
- ▶ Value of Agricultural Commodities Produced, Australia (cat. no. 7503.0)
- ▶ Water Use on Australian Farms (cat. no. 4618.0) Gross Value of Irrigated Agricultural Production (cat. no. 4610.0.55.008).

These publications provide information on agricultural commodities produced (including value) and water used for agricultural purposes.

Other key outputs from the program are:

- ▶ Land Management and Farming in Australia (cat. no. 4627.0)
- ▶ Agricultural Land and Water Ownership (cat. no. 7127.0), which provides information on foreign ownership of agricultural businesses, land and water entitlements
- ▶ Vineyards, Australia (cat. no. 1329.0.55.002), which provides information on area and production of major grape varieties, and water source and methods
- ▶ Livestock and Meat, Australia (cat. no. 7218.0.55.001), which provides information on livestock slaughtered for human consumption, including meat produced
- ▶ Livestock Products, Australia (cat. no. 7215.0), which provides information on other livestock products, including wool and poultry.

DEVELOPMENTS

The main medium-term developments in the program are to:

- ▶ undertake the 2015-16 Agricultural Census, the 2016 Agriculture Land and Water Ownership survey and the 2015-16 Land and Management Practices Survey – the information from all these collections is due to be released from mid-2017
- ▶ continue the collaborative working relationship with the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences to address the findings from the National Agricultural Statistics Review, which has considered all aspects of the agricultural statistical system in Australia – ongoing
- ▶ investigate innovative ways of acquiring data to meet user requirements beyond direct survey collection, for example via remote sensing and satellite imagery – ongoing.

Program Manager

Julie Nankervis (A/g)
Indigenous Statistics &
Reporting Branch

Resources

Program costs	\$m
2015-16	2.2
2016-17	2.5
2017-18	2.7

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER STATISTICS

OBJECTIVES

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Statistics program provides information essential to monitoring the wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. The program is led by the National Centre for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Statistics and is delivered by a number of areas of the ABS that provide statistical leadership in the collection, production and analysis of data for, and about, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

The program aims to improve the quality, timeliness and relevance of social, demographic and economic information on the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population. As part of the ABS's statistical transformation agenda and in response to the growing demand for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Statistics, a key focus of the program is developing innovative statistical solutions using a range of data sources to expand and enhance the suite of available Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Statistics.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander statistics are used by a wide range of stakeholders, including Commonwealth and state and territory policy agencies, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and organisations, and the general community, to inform policy development and evaluation as well as provide an understanding of the overall wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. The ABS actively engages with stakeholders to ensure the program is relevant and can support emerging information needs.

The program is committed to ongoing stakeholder engagement, with a focus on engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, in ABS planning, collection, production and dissemination activities to: ensure the best statistical outcomes for users; provide continued analysis and reporting to explain and improve understanding of data; and develop strategies to maximise the effectiveness and efficiency of data collection and reduce respondent burden on the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population.

OUTPUTS

The main outputs of the program include:

- ▶ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population estimates and associated life-expectancy estimates
- ▶ the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey
- ▶ the Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey
- ▶ Census of Population and Housing counts and characteristics, available to a small area level
- ▶ statistical leadership to improve Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander statistics on population, mortality, health, housing, community services, education, employment, and law and justice
- ▶ ongoing commitment to appropriate engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people through the Indigenous Community Engagement Strategy and Round Table for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Statistics
- ▶ provision of expertise, advice and data in supporting performance monitoring
- ▶ analytical reports and information papers to enhance understanding and use of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander statistics
- ▶ coordination and promotion of improvements in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander statistics from administrative collections.

DEVELOPMENTS

The main medium-term developments in the program are to:

- ▶ continue to disseminate results from the 2012-2013 Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey – ongoing to end of 2015
- ▶ disseminate results from the 2014 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey – ongoing to 2016
- ▶ support the 2016 Census of Population and Housing planning, enumeration and dissemination of results – ongoing to 2018
- ▶ develop an information model and statistical framework for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Statistics, to improve frequency, efficiency and relevance of statistics for and about the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population – ongoing
- ▶ explore and test new methods to enhance the suite of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Statistics – ongoing
- ▶ work with stakeholders to ensure informed use of ABS Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander statistics and determine future information requirements – ongoing
- ▶ build stronger relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and organisations through the Indigenous Community Engagement Strategy and Round Table for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Statistics, to increase data quality, statistical capability and to manage provider load – ongoing.

Program Manager

Michelle Marquardt (AVg)
Health & Disability Branch

Resources

Program costs	\$m
2015-16	5.7
2016-17	4.8
2017-18	3.9

The level of funding for this program in the out-years has not been agreed.

HEALTH AND DISABILITY STATISTICS

OBJECTIVES

The Health and Disability Statistics program provides statistical leadership to inform priorities for improving health outcomes and supporting all people to participate actively in society. Information produced by the program includes statistics relating to health status (including causes of death); health-related services; patient experiences; disability; health risk factors and impacts on sub-groups within the population.

Statistics on health and disability describe an important aspect of wellbeing, which can impact on people's capacity to participate in the labour force, and more broadly in the community. Changes in the levels of health and disability measures can inform both the development of interventions for prevention and care, and the need for related services over time. These statistics provide information on the impacts of programs and service provision, and can be used to assess areas of unmet need. They are widely used in research related to health and community issues.

Clients of the program include Australian government agencies including the departments of: Health and Social Services; the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare; the National Health Performance Authority; state and territory government agencies; academic and research institutions; social welfare organisations providing health and disability services; and the general public.

OUTPUTS

The program produces a range of outputs including: frameworks and standards; statistics, microdata and associated metadata; information/technical papers; guides; and analytical articles.

Key outputs include:

- ▶ National Health Survey: Summary of Results (cat. no. 4364.0), which provides information on the health status of the population with a focus on particular conditions, risk factor outcomes and population groups
- ▶ Causes of Death, Australia (cat. no. 3303.0), which provides information on causes of death based on the International Classification of Diseases – Version 10
- ▶ Patient Experiences in Australia: Summary of Findings (cat. no. 4839.0), which provides information on the interaction of health services and their clients
- ▶ Private Hospitals, Australia (cat. no. 4390.0), which provides information on the structure and operations of the Private Hospital Sector
- ▶ Disability, Ageing and Carers, Australia: Summary of Findings (cat. no. 4430.0), which provides information on the nature and extent of disability and associated needs for care and support, as well as the circumstances of carers.

DEVELOPMENTS

The main medium-term developments in the program are to:

- ▶ undertake a review of long-term health data needs with key clients – due December 2015
- ▶ produce additional reports around nutrition – throughout 2016
- ▶ produce additional reports from the mental health-related services-Census integrated dataset – throughout 2016
- ▶ provide internationally comparable disability statistics and investigate their relationship with the 2015 Survey of Disability Ageing and Carers – progressively through to early 2017
- ▶ improve information about coordination of health care – through to 2018
- ▶ contribute to the development and implementation of the World Health Organisations' International Classification of Diseases – Version 11, for use in mortality and morbidity coding in Australia – ongoing
- ▶ facilitate the release of causes of death microdata collaboration with the Australian Coordinating Registry and State and Territory Registrars of Births, Deaths and Marriage – ongoing
- ▶ investigate possibilities to bring together datasets where opportunities exist to better inform policy makers and researchers – ongoing.

Program Manager

Judy Henson
Education, Crime & Culture

Resources

Program costs	\$m
2015-16	1.9
2016-17	1.2
2017-18	1.5

EDUCATION AND TRAINING STATISTICS

OBJECTIVES

The ABS Education and Training Statistics program aims to understand and support high priority and emerging needs for quality statistical solutions, information and analysis on early childhood education and care, schooling and further education. The program builds partnerships and collaborations to transform the information base for education and training policy in Australia through the integration of existing administrative and population data sources to provide an integrated, longitudinal and outcomes focussed view of education and training.

The activities of the Education and Training Statistics program are led by the National Centre for Education and Training Statistics, and are delivered through collaboration with the many areas of the ABS which contribute education and training data such as the Census of Population and Housing.

Key elements of the program include the annual National Schools Statistics Collection, the National Early Childhood Education and Care Collection, and regular household surveys related to child care, education, training and work. The program produces a range of outputs including: frameworks and standards; statistics, microdata and associated metadata; information and technical papers; and analytical articles. This information is used by Australian and state and territory governments for performance assessment and policy making, by organisations involved in educational research and analysis, and by the community to inform decision making.

OUTPUTS

The main outputs of the program are:

- ▶ annual statistics from the National Schools Statistics Collection and the National Early Childhood Education and Care Collection
- ▶ summary publications, Confidentialised Unit Record Files and datacubes from regular household surveys such as the Survey of Education and Work, the Survey of Qualifications and Employment Outcomes and the Childhood Education and Care Survey
- ▶ provision of expertise, advice and data in supporting national performance reporting for a range of government activities
- ▶ a statistical information and dissemination service for education and training statistics; and periodic snapshots on thematic issues
- ▶ advice and contributions to key government advisory groups on education and training information.

DEVELOPMENTS

The main medium-term developments in the program are to:

- ▶ compile and publish statistics for the 2015 National Schools Statistics Collection – due March 2016
- ▶ compile and publish statistics for the 2015 National Early Childhood Education and Care Collection – due March 2016
- ▶ conduct and publish results from the new 2014-15 ABS Survey of Qualifications and Employment Outcomes – due 2016
- ▶ conduct and publish results from the January 2017 Survey of Work-Related Training and Adult Learning – due June 2017
- ▶ conduct and publish results from the June 2017 Childhood Education and Care Survey – due 2018
- ▶ strengthen collaborative working arrangements with users and producers of early childhood education and care, schooling and further education statistics, including for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples – ongoing
- ▶ contribute to the development of future data strategies for education and training policies in Australia, supporting the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) Education Council and Industry and Skills Council, and the Australian Education, Early Childhood Development and Youth Affairs Senior Officials Committee – ongoing.

Program Manager

Judy Henson
Education, Crime & Culture
Branch

Resources

Program costs	\$m
2015-16	2.2
2016-17	2.0
2017-18	2.3

CRIME AND JUSTICE STATISTICS

OBJECTIVES

The Crime and Justice Statistics program leads national statistical activity to develop and improve information across the three domains of recorded crime, courts and corrections, publishing statistics and partnering with statistical practitioners in the jurisdictions to continually improve the quality of the collections.

The ABS also undertakes a survey program in the field of crime and justice statistics. These surveys produce information on victimisation for personal and household crimes, experience and consequences of crime, as well as more general surveys aimed at understanding the experience of crime within a broader social context.

The key stakeholders for this program are the Australian Government Attorney-General's Department, state and territory agencies responsible for police services, courts administration and corrective services, organisations undertaking criminal justice research, and the community.

OUTPUTS

The main outputs of the program are:

- ▶ Recorded Crime – Victims, Australia (cat. no. 4510.0), which provides indicators of the level and nature of recorded crime victimisation in Australia annually
- ▶ Crime Victimisation, Australia (cat. no. 4530.0), which provides annual survey-based victimisation information for selected personal and household offences. Additional information is collected, on an irregular basis, about other crime types, and crime and safety related perceptions, behaviours and experiences.
- ▶ Recorded Crime – Offenders, Australia (cat. no. 4519.0), which provides characteristics of alleged offenders who have been proceeded against by police, including offence information, available annually
- ▶ Criminal Courts, Australia (cat. no. 4513.0), which provides characteristics of defendants, including information on their offences and sentences, available annually
- ▶ Federal Defendants, Australia (cat. no. 4515.0)
- ▶ Prisoners in Australia (cat. no. 4517.0), which provides information from the National Prisoner Census on people held in adult prisons, including their characteristics, sentence lengths and offences for which they are imprisoned, published annually
- ▶ Corrective Services, Australia (cat. no. 4512.0), which presents information on numbers and rates of people in custody and those serving community-based corrections orders each quarter
- ▶ outputs to promote national standards for crime and justice statistics - recent examples include revised classifications such as the Australian and New Zealand Standard Offence Classification and the National Offence Index, the development of a national crime recording standard for police statistics, and the family, domestic and sexual violence conceptual framework
- ▶ outputs to assist policy agencies build a comparable statistical evidence base using administrative data, such as the Foundation for a National Data Collection and Reporting Framework for Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence (cat. no. 4529.0.00.003).

DEVELOPMENTS

The main medium-term developments in the program are to:

- ▶ support government efforts to improve information covering cybercrime and the prevalence of identity fraud in Australia – due December 2015
- ▶ ensure a sustainable future suite of crime victimisation surveys through the Australian Population Survey and a successful transition strategy from the current Crime Victimisation Survey program outputs – due December 2016
- ▶ in collaboration with data providers, improve the range, quality and availability of data collected through administrative systems in police, courts and corrective services sectors with a focus on improving Indigenous identification – ongoing
- ▶ support evidence based development projects across crime and justice areas through assistance and advice to related agencies in key areas of statistical need such as family, domestic and sexual violence and the civil justice system – ongoing
- ▶ support efforts to improve agreed high priority information on substance use, firearms, costs of crime, sub-state geography, recidivism and reappearance indicators – ongoing.

Program Manager

AJ Lanyon
Population Branch

Resources

Program costs	\$m
2015-16	0.7
2016-17	0.5
2017-18	0.6

MIGRANT STATISTICS

OBJECTIVES

The Migrant Statistics program aims to understand and support high priority emerging needs for migrant statistics by providing relevant statistical solutions, including analysis, to inform policy and research in relation to migrants. Key elements of the program include the three-yearly Characteristics of Recent Migrants Survey and data integration projects that use statistical techniques to link Department of Social Services (DSS) migrant settlement information with other important datasets such as the Census of Population and Housing and Australian Taxation Office (ATO) personal income tax records. These data integration projects are cost efficient and provide new insights about the settlement outcomes of migrants.

The activities of the Migrant Statistics program are led by the National Migrant Statistics Unit, and are delivered through collaboration with many areas of the ABS which contribute statistics for migrants including the Household Surveys, Labour, Demography and Census areas. A key component of the program is the outposting of an ABS officer to the Department of Immigration and Border Protection (DIBP).

The major stakeholders of the program are DIBP and the DSS and various other Australian, state and territory government agencies which provide services to migrants and ethnic groups.

OUTPUTS

The main outputs and activities of the program are:

- ▶ the *Australian Census and Migrants Integrated Dataset*, which can be accessed as microdata in TableBuilder (cat. no. 3417.0.55.001) or summary tables (cat. no. 3417.0)
- ▶ research papers which explain new statistical work (e.g. data integration quality studies) undertaken to improve the range and quality of migrant data available to users
- ▶ Migrant Data Matrices (cat. no. 3415.0), which provides a portal to help users find and access data about migrants from the one location on the ABS website
- ▶ Characteristics of Recent Migrants, Australia (cat. no. 6250.0), which provides survey data on the labour force characteristics of recent migrants and temporary visa holders
- ▶ Perspectives on Migrants (cat. no. 3416.0), a series of articles which provide analysis of migrant data from ABS and other sources
- ▶ statistical activities aimed at promoting and developing national standards such as frameworks, classifications and definitions e.g. Standards for Statistics on Cultural and Language Diversity (cat. no. 1289.0)
- ▶ coordination and specification of statistical data needs through consultation with data users and, where appropriate, undertaking development work to meet those needs
- ▶ coordination of ABS activity to ensure that issues relevant to migrants are taken into account in statistical development activities.

DEVELOPMENTS

The main medium-term developments in the program are to:

- ▶ develop an ongoing linked data series using ATO personal income tax records and DSS migrant settlement records to produce new statistics on recent migrants in terms of their personal income – the first statistical publications from this dataset will be released in the latter half of 2015
- ▶ continue to build collaborative working arrangements with users and producers of migrant statistics – ongoing
- ▶ develop a linked dataset using DIBP temporary visa holders administrative records and Census records to inform policy and research on the characteristics of temporary visa holders resident in Australia at the time of the 2011 and 2016 Census – ongoing
- ▶ commence planning and development of linkage strategies for the 2016 Australian Census and Migrants Data Integration Project – ongoing
- ▶ influence the content of ABS collections with a view to the inclusion of topics which are of most interest and highest priority to migrant statistics stakeholders – ongoing
- ▶ review migrant related standards and increase the coherence of migrant statistical sources through the development and adoption of relevant standards – ongoing.

Program Manager

Tom Joseph
Industry & Labour Demand
Branch

Resources

Program costs	\$m
2015-16	1.2
2016-17	1.1
2017-18	1.1

TRANSPORT STATISTICS

OBJECTIVES

The Transport Statistics program is responsible for producing statistics on transport and transport related activities. It is also actively involved in stakeholder collaboration on transport policy priorities to assist in identifying data needs and alternative methods of collecting data.

There are multiple main clients of the program including: the Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development; the Bureau of Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Economics; state and territory government transport agencies; the National Transport Commission; the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator; and industry and academic organisations.

Statistics from the transport collections are used to assist in policy and planning deliberations by governments and transport organisations, particularly in the areas of long-term planning and infrastructure investment, the regulation of road transport operators, and for accident exposure and fuel use analysis. Information about the vehicle fleet provides a measure of the stock of vehicles registered for road use at a point in time and supports the study of links between demographic change and vehicle ownership and use. Statistics on new motor vehicle sales provide an economic indicator of consumer confidence.

OUTPUTS

The key regular outputs of the program are:

- ▶ Sales of New Motor Vehicles, Australia (cat. no. 9314.0) – a monthly major economic indicator
- ▶ Survey of Motor Vehicle Use, Australia (cat. no. 9208.0)
- ▶ Motor Vehicle Census, Australia (cat. no. 9309.0).

DEVELOPMENTS

The main medium-term developments in the program are to:

- ▶ disseminate Road Freight Movement statistics from data collected as part of the Survey of Motor Vehicle Use 2014 – due September 2015
- ▶ continue to pursue the development of nationally consistent road freight statistics from sources such as administrative records or on board devices – ongoing
- ▶ support the activities of the Australian Transport Data Action Network as it progresses the Data Action Plan for the Transport and Infrastructure Council – ongoing.

Program Manager

Tom Joseph
Industry & Labour
Demand Branch

Resources

Program costs	\$m
2015-16	0.8
2016-17	0.4
2017-18	0.0

The level of funding for this program in the out-years has not been agreed.

TOURISM STATISTICS

OBJECTIVES

The Tourism Statistics program is responsible for producing regular and coherent data on tourism activities. It is also actively involved in user consultation with government and industry bodies on tourism policy priorities to assist in identifying data needs and alternative methods of collecting data.

The program conducts the Survey of Tourist Accommodation (STA) and compiles the Australian Tourism Satellite Account (TSA). Both the current STA and the TSA are funded by the Australian Trade Commission (Austrade). The Tourism Program is also responsible for the development and maintenance of tourism frameworks, standards and concepts.

Tourism related data produced by other areas of the ABS includes Overseas Arrivals and Departures data, tourism related exports and imports indicators, and data collected under the Industry Statistics program.

The main clients of the program are: Austrade; state and territory tourism departments; tourism industry associations; academic and research groups; and marketing and consultancy bodies.

Tourism statistics are used to assist in economic analysis and policy formation relating to tourism, to measure the size and structure of the tourism industry and related industries, to allocate state and territory government funding to regional areas, and for local government planning and investment. The STA data are an input to the policy and planning activities of government and industry, particularly in relation to tourism activity in regional areas. The TSA shows the contribution of tourism to major economic aggregates such as gross domestic product. This data supports policy development related to the Tourism 2020 goals.

OUTPUTS

The key outputs of the program are:

- ▶ Tourist Accommodation, Australia (cat. no. 8635.0), which provides detailed demand and supply data relating to hotels, motels and guest houses with 15 or more rooms, and serviced apartments with 15 or more units at a fine level of geographic detail
- ▶ Australian National Accounts: Tourism Satellite Account (cat. no. 5249.0).

The program has actively worked with Austrade to increase outputs relating to Australian National Accounts: Tourism Satellite Account (cat. no. 5249.0) to enable better measurement of tourism industry productivity, employment, growth in real terms and prices. The program also provides assistance in user education relating to Overseas Arrivals and Departures, Australia (cat. no. 3401.0), tourism related services exports and imports indicators in International Trade in Goods and Services, Australia (cat. no. 5368.0), Balance of Payments and International Investment Position, Australia (cat. no. 5302.0), and the tourism related outputs issued by the Industry Statistics program.

DEVELOPMENTS

The main medium-term developments in the program are to:

- ▶ deliver an updated annual STA for 2015-16 – due December 2015
- ▶ research any structural changes to the tourism industry in recent years as part of the benchmark improvement process for the TSA estimates – due April 2016
- ▶ work with Austrade on identifying alternative administrative sources of data collection for tourism accommodation statistics – due June 2016
- ▶ contribute to the work of the United Nations World Tourism Organisation and other international bodies in reviewing statistical standards and classifications – ongoing.

Program Manager

Judy Henson
*Education, Crime & Culture
Branch*

Resources

This program is user
funded.

CULTURE STATISTICS

OBJECTIVES

The ABS Culture Statistics program continues with the support of the Australian Government Attorney-General's Department and the state and territory arts and cultural agencies. The program delivers national statistics to inform arts and cultural issues of national significance.

OUTPUTS

The main outputs of the program are:

- ▶ conducting the Cultural Attendance and Participation Survey
- ▶ producing and updating the Australian National Accounts: Cultural and Creative Activity Satellite Accounts (cat. no. 5271.0)
- ▶ assisting Arts South Australia in conducting the national Cultural Funding by Government Survey.

DEVELOPMENTS

The main medium-term developments in the program are to:

- ▶ advance the quality of, and establish ongoing arrangements for, the production of the Cultural Attendance and Participation Survey – ongoing
- ▶ develop partnerships with relevant national working groups and agencies through collaboration to enhance the quality, range and availability of relevant cultural statistics – ongoing.

Program Manager

Julie Nankervis (A/g)
Indigenous Statistics
& Reporting

Resources

Program costs	\$m
2015-16	1.3
2016-17	1.3
2017-18	1.4

REGIONAL STATISTICS

OBJECTIVES

The Regional Statistics program supports high priority information needs for regional statistics by providing relevant analyses, products and services. Regional data may include data relating to cities, urban, rural or remote areas. The activities of the Regional Statistics program are delivered through collaboration with many areas of the ABS and external clients which contribute regional data or analysis on a wide range of topics across economic, environment and social statistics.

The program assists governments at all levels, businesses and communities to understand the characteristics of regions and change in regions across Australia, with current issues centring on regional population characteristics, regional business characteristics, local economic development, and service or infrastructure access in regions. The ABS actively engages with key users of regional data to understand and support regional data needs and emerging priorities, in order to assist local planning.

Over the next four years, the program will focus on improving access to, and enhancing the set of, regional statistics and spatial datasets as the ABS transforms its statistical program. Improved regional statistics, including the development of new indicators, may be produced from a range of sources, including Census, survey, administrative and transactional data, and using a range of techniques (including modelled and linked data). For example, business tax data may be used to develop information about the characteristics of businesses in regions. The program provides expertise in spatial analysis and small area estimation, and will test and develop new methods to produce more relevant and timely regional statistics. The program will engage with users of regional data to ensure that the ABS developments offer the best possible solutions for users.

OUTPUTS

The main outputs of the program are:

- ▶ the Data by Region interface and National Regional Profile dataset (cat. no. 1379.0.55.001), which provides a one-stop-shop for regional statistics for regions and is updated at least annually
- ▶ estimates and indicators from administrative data, such as the Australian Taxation Office personal income tax data, and data on customers of Centrelink and other agencies
- ▶ Estimates of Personal Income for Small Areas (cat. no. 6524.0.55.002) providing annual regional statistics on personal income.

DEVELOPMENTS

The main medium-term developments in the program are to:

- ▶ publish a discussion paper outlining future directions for regional statistics – due May 2016
- ▶ test and develop new methods for generating regional outputs, including application of small area estimation methods – preliminary results due in June 2016
- ▶ actively engage with key data users to understand emerging priority data needs for regional statistics, with key priorities for the medium term being: regional population and labour force data, regional economic data including business characteristics, and service access – ongoing
- ▶ improve ABS dissemination and promotion of information about regional data access and availability through client networks, conferences, seminars and workshops – ongoing
- ▶ deliver improved National Regional Profile outputs by progressively building in more flexibility for users to access available data for specific regions – ongoing.

Program Manager

Branko Vitas (A/g)
Environment & Agriculture
Branch

Resources

Program costs	\$m
2015-16	2.0
2016-17	1.7
2017-18	1.8

ENVIRONMENT STATISTICS

OBJECTIVES

The Environment Statistics program contributes to meeting the demand for comprehensive and coordinated information about Australia's environment, focusing on key themes such as water, energy, ecosystems and land management. The complex inter-relationships between the environment, society and the economy require integrated information, which is a key focus of the program.

The program actively engages with partners to understand information needs and coordinate the development of statistics from the wide range of data available in this field.

Use of environment statistics is varied and includes the formulation of policies, economic analysis, research, forecasting and meeting international reporting obligations. Clients of the program include: the Australian Government departments of Environment; Agriculture; Industry and Science; Innovation; and the Department of the Treasury; Australian Government agencies such as the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences; the Murray Darling Basin Authority; the Bureau of Meteorology; the Australian Renewable Energy Agency and Geoscience Australia; state and territory government departments with environment or energy responsibilities; academic and research organisations; environmental groups; businesses; and individuals.

OUTPUTS

The main outputs of the program are:

- ▶ Australian Environmental – Economic Accounts (cat. no. 4655.0)
- ▶ Energy Account, Australia (cat. no. 4604.0)
- ▶ Water Account, Australia (cat. no. 4610.0)
- ▶ Land Account: Great Barrier Reef Region, Experimental Estimates (cat. no. 4609.0.55.001)
- ▶ Land Account: Victoria, Experimental Estimates (cat. no. 4609.0.55.002)
- ▶ Land Account: Queensland, Experimental Estimates (cat. no. 4609.0.55.003)
- ▶ continued collaboration for development of the remaining volumes of the United Nations System of Environmental Economic Accounts (SEEA), which brings environmental and economic information together within a common framework
- ▶ production of information and discussion papers on the development of experimental accounts using the SEEA framework
- ▶ production of Employment in Renewable Energy Activities, Australia (cat. no. 4631.0) (funded by the Renewable Energy Agency).

DEVELOPMENTS

The main medium-term developments in the program are to:

- ▶ improve the quality and depth of detail of existing water and energy accounts – ongoing
- ▶ work with key stakeholders to demonstrate applications of SEEA and promote its use as a framework for integration of socioeconomic and environmental information to inform policy development and decision making – ongoing
- ▶ investigate, and seek funding for, expansion of the environmental accounting program that could encompass regular ecosystems, environmental expenditure, environmental goods and services and environment industry accounts – ongoing
- ▶ collaborate with other government agencies around environmental information initiatives such as the National Plan for Environmental Information, National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting System, the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority Outlook Report, and the National Waste Report – ongoing
- ▶ provide statistical support and training to Asia and the Pacific region on the implementation of the SEEA (funded by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade) – ongoing.

Program Manager

Paul Mahoney
International &
Government Finance
Accounts Branch

Resources

Program costs	\$m
2015-16	1.2
2016-17	1.7
2017-18	1.2

MACROECONOMIC RESEARCH

OBJECTIVES

The Macroeconomic Research Program encompasses macroeconomic statistics research, quality improvements, development of new products, economic integration and advisory functions. This set of functions is designed to improve the ABS's capability to produce high quality macroeconomic statistics in the longer term, while addressing emerging priorities in the short term.

Analytical activities in the program range from research projects to improve the accuracy and coherence of existing economic statistics and develop new statistical products, through to operational efforts to increase the efficiency of statistical operations.

DEVELOPMENTS

The main medium-term developments in the program are to:

- ▶ review and improve productive capital stock statistics – due mid 2016
- ▶ review and improve several Balance of Payments models – due mid 2016
- ▶ review and improve output measures for services industries including education and health care – ongoing
- ▶ monitor international developments in statistics on globalisation, trade in value added and global value chains – ongoing.

Program Manager

David Zago
Household Surveys Branch

Resources

Program costs	\$m
2015-16	15.7
2016-17	14.2
2017-18	10.9

The level of funding for this program in the out-years has not been agreed.

HOUSEHOLD SURVEYS

OBJECTIVES

The newly established Household Surveys program consolidates a range of statistical expertise associated with the delivery of high quality household surveys. The program is responsible for the development, design, processing and dissemination of household surveys, and will play a critical role in maintaining the ongoing delivery of a comprehensive social and population statistical program through the period of the ABS Statistical Business Transformation program. The program will also lead continuous improvement in household survey methods and operations and contribute to the incremental implementation of business process improvements. Lastly, it will actively support the realisation of ABS transformation and reduce costs, improve timeliness, reduce statistical risk and reduce red tape.

OUTPUTS

The main outputs of the Household Survey Branch come from the delivery of the Household Survey program (detailed separately across statistical programs in this publication). The outputs include supplementary surveys conducted as part of the Monthly Population Surveys, the Multi-Purpose Household Survey program, cyclical large scale Special Social Surveys and other partnership projects, such as the Longitudinal Study of Australian Children (conducted in partnership with the Department of Social Services and the Australian Institute of Family Studies).

Key outputs include:

- ▶ delivery of the Household Income and Expenditure Survey
- ▶ publications, microdata, TableBuilder products and supporting documentation from the following surveys: National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey; the General Social Survey, the Survey of Income and Housing, the Patient Experience Survey; the Longitudinal Study of Australian Children; the Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers, 2015; the Multi-Purpose Household Survey and Monthly Population Survey; and the National Health Survey.

DEVELOPMENTS

The main medium-term developments in the program are to:

- ▶ apply professional project management practices to ensure the delivery of a timely, efficient, reliable and relevant household survey program – ongoing
- ▶ continue to implement best practice in survey data capture, coding, cleansing, processing, estimation and dissemination – ongoing
- ▶ design and develop survey methods that maximise data quality while improving respondent experience – ongoing
- ▶ develop the next waves of the Personal Safety Survey, Longitudinal Study of Australian Children and the Coordination of Healthcare Survey – ongoing.

Program Manager

Julie Nankervis (A/g)
Indigenous Statistics &
Reporting Branch

Resources

Program costs	\$m
2015-16	0.4
2016-17	0.4
2017-18	0.4

SOCIAL REPORTING AND FRAMEWORKS

OBJECTIVES

The Social Reporting and Frameworks program provides leadership for responding to priority data needs across the social statistics program that are relevant to understanding wellbeing and social outcomes. It provides frameworks to assist users to access relevant data and analyse social outcomes, and has responsibility for family and community, gender, social inclusion, and time use statistics.

The program provides leadership and coordination relating to the conceptual organisation of social statistics including the overall social statistics framework and related conceptual models. The framework's dimensions, particularly areas of social interest and population groups, are central to the ABS's social statistics collection and reporting activity. As the ABS undergoes transformation of its survey program over the next five years, organising frameworks across social survey topics will become increasingly important to underpin a coherent set of social statistics.

A particular focus for the program is on gender indicators, designed to assist and inform government policy, by supporting decision makers to develop, monitor and evaluate policies and programs aimed at achieving gender equality. The program also supports the development of relevant content for social surveys that reflects user needs, and is responsible for standards relevant to the measurement of family, sex and gender statistics.

Priorities for the program are determined through engagement with relevant stakeholder groups including Australian Government and key advisory groups.

OUTPUTS

The main outputs of the program are:

- ▶ development and implementation of the Frameworks for Australian Social Statistics (cat. no. 4160.0.55.001), including user guides
- ▶ leading the development of social survey content and analysis relevant to time use, family characteristics and social participation
- ▶ biannual updates of Gender Indicators, Australia (cat. no. 4125.0)
- ▶ undertaking customised data requests and reports for clients (e.g. A Profile of Australian Women in Business, 2015 produced for the Office for Women).

DEVELOPMENTS

The main medium-term developments in the program are to:

- ▶ actively engage with key data users to understand emerging priority data needs across the social statistics program that are relevant to understanding social outcomes and wellbeing – ongoing
- ▶ development and implementation of organising frameworks and associated documentation for social statistics that support access and use of social data, including areas of particular social interest and population groups – late 2015
- ▶ develop and maintain efficient processes for the coordination of official reporting on key social statistics to the Australian Government, and international statistical bodies, including the Post 2015 Development Agenda – ongoing
- ▶ continue to improve ABS dissemination of information about social issues relating to wellbeing, families, communities and gender, reflecting the priority of data – ongoing.

STATISTICAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND SUPPORT



General Manager

Gillian Nicoll (A/g)
Statistical Business
Transformation Program

Program Managers

Adrian Bugg
Acquire Branch

Bill Allen
Process & Analyse Branch

Michael Beahan
Disseminate Branch

Michael Meagher (A/g)
Foundational
Infrastructure Branch

Tim Montgomery (A/g)
Statistical Business
Transformation Program
Delivery Office

Resources

Program costs	\$m
2015-16	39.6
2016-17	40.6
2017-18	40.2

Capital budgets are not
reported.

STATISTICAL BUSINESS TRANSFORMATION

OBJECTIVES

The Statistical Business Transformation program is responsible for designing and developing the next generation of statistical business processes and supporting information infrastructure to provide a platform to reduce costs and burden on providers, bring together various datasets to develop new statistical products more rapidly, and make data available in a form which can be more easily used.

Program delivery design evolved from the application of an industry standard approach to re-engineering end-to-end business processes. This has produced five high level program components/streams supported by a dedicated program management function. The imperative to complete the program within five years requires some components to be delivered in parallel, which will require significant effort to prioritise activities effectively based on the sequencing of dependent projects.

OUTPUTS

The main components of the program are set out below.

Foundational Infrastructure

This will lay the platform for ABS business processes to be metadata driven from end-to-end, within a common data management framework. The application of standards based statistical information, in conjunction with the re-engineering of business processes, will greatly increase re-use and automation of end-to-end statistical processes to reduce the number of labour intensive manual tasks resulting from incompatibilities between systems and processes.

Re-engineering Design Phase

This phase focuses on gathering requirements and designing updated systems to: accommodate collection input from multiple sources, unit and aggregate capture, simple through to complex processing and analysis, flexible dissemination formats and tools; and enable end-to-end information management, standardised processes, corporate systems and applications.

Enterprise Wide Services (Capability Development Projects)

While the current program plan requires some key development work to commence almost immediately, most resources required to deliver infrastructure, applications and integration activities will be in years two and three of the program. The capability projects include, for example, enterprise wide: statistical data linking capability; data compilation capability; and data analysis capability.

Configuration and Onboarding

Two phases will be undertaken for this component of the program. The first phase is implementation planning, which is essential to ensure there is thorough and detailed planning of the roll out of Statistical Business Transformation program outputs with minimal disruption to business as usual activities and a successful transition to the new platform.

The second phase will transition people, processes, systems and data to the new information managed environment, supported by rigorous risk management strategies.

Program Management

This component will be supported by the Program Delivery Office which will provide centralised and coordinated program and project management support to ensure the successful delivery of the program.

DEVELOPMENTS

There are various development activities with overlapping timeframes, to be delivered up to 30 June 2020, including to:

- ▶ achieve benefits from transformation of household and business collection through improvements to the usability, functionality and editing capabilities of online forms
- ▶ further expand online reporting capability for business collections
- ▶ optimise the Monthly Population Survey online form and implement online reporting capability for other household surveys
- ▶ implement a new ABS data acquisition business model to harmonise business and household data collection and respondent interactions
- ▶ establish requirements for enterprise capabilities to meet data acquisition functions

- ▶ update dissemination infrastructure and systems to meet the needs of users in a rapidly changing digital environment, including facilitating re-use of ABS data by external clients and third party portals, while ensuring visibility of the ABS brand
- ▶ progressively implement Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.0 compliance and engage in APS networks on accessibility
- ▶ expand the range of ABS data available for customers to use through Application Programming Interfaces (APIs – an open data approach for sharing content and data between communities and applications)
- ▶ develop and implement a Metadata Registry and Repository to provide end-to-end management, registration, storage and re-use of ABS metadata
- ▶ develop and implement an Enterprise Data Management Environment to provide life cycle management of statistical data
- ▶ develop and implement a statistical workflow management system to facilitate the design, creation and orchestration of statistical processes
- ▶ develop and implement a Statistician's Workbench, which will allow staff to access the core infrastructure for the management of data and metadata.

Program Managers

Celia Moss
*Transforming People
Statistics Branch*

Michael Smedes
*Transforming Economic
Statistics Branch*

Resources

Program costs	\$m
2015-16	0.8
2016-17	0.6
2017-18	0.6

Only partial resources are reported for this program.

TRANSFORMING ECONOMIC AND PEOPLE STATISTICS PROGRAMS

OBJECTIVES

The Transforming Economic and People Statistics programs are responsible for articulating and driving the transformation of the ABS's statistical programs, through developing the business strategy and supporting the Statistical Business Transformation program to deliver modern supporting infrastructure effectively. These programs will champion the increased solution-orientation of the ABS, to meet the information requirements of Australia in the 21st century.

The programs, as part of the Strategic Partnerships and Projects Division, provide an important leadership and coordination role for transformation in the ABS and serve as the key conduit between the Statistical Service Group, the Statistical Business Transformation Group, and the Enabling Services Group. The programs provide critical leadership within ABS transformation by ensuring:

- ▶ a strong focus on the current, emerging and future requirements of stakeholders and the capabilities required to effectively provide statistical solutions
- ▶ visible and compelling guiding business strategies – focused on increased value and responsiveness to stakeholders, and long-term sustainability
- ▶ alignment between the business strategy and the statistical infrastructure delivered through the Statistical Business Transformation program.

OUTPUTS

The main outputs will be:

- ▶ a new holistic approach to identifying requirements, and effectively and responsively providing statistical solutions
- ▶ statistical methods that enable the ABS to more responsively produce solutions using multiple data sources (e.g. data integration and modelling)
- ▶ increased use of administrative data in people statistics
- ▶ an integrated population survey program and further consolidation of business surveys programs
- ▶ an expanded and outwardly focused Business Register, as well as the establishment of a Dwelling and Address Register
- ▶ use of transactions data to provide enhanced household consumption data
- ▶ an enhanced set of labour market statistics
- ▶ transformed Index and Account compilation processes
- ▶ engagement with whole-of-government initiatives.

DEVELOPMENTS

The main medium-term developments are to:

- ▶ identify and specify broad capability requirements for the Statistical Business Transformation program - due October 2015
- ▶ implement linked employer-employee data – due June 2016
- ▶ identify, through consultation with key stakeholders, an initial and foundational program of solutions for transformed people statistics – due December 2016
- ▶ develop and implement an enhanced and outwardly facing Business Register – due June 2017
- ▶ develop and implement the consolidation of business surveys – due June 2018
- ▶ develop and implement an integrated population survey program – implemented progressively from 2017-18 and completed by December 2019.

Program Manager

Ruth McArdle (A/g)
Communications &
Dissemination Branch

Resources

Program costs	\$m
2015-16	6.2
2016-17	5.6
2017-18	5.6

COMMUNICATIONS AND DISSEMINATION

OBJECTIVES

The Communications and Dissemination program ensures the continued delivery and optimisation of robust and timely statistical data to the Australian community, as well as providing internal communications services and media liaison.

The program provides leadership and expertise so that subject matter areas can improve the effectiveness and efficiency of statistical communication, and it makes sure that an enterprise-wide communication approach aligns the ABS brand and internal and external messages.

External communication activities are focused on improving the availability, interpretation and use of statistical data, as well as undertaking customer research to improve the ABS's products and services.

Internal communication activities aim to provide a range of communication options to provide timely and convenient delivery of organisational messages to ABS staff.

OUTPUTS

The key outputs from the program are:

- ▶ innovative dissemination services, content and functionality, including the ABS website, social media and smart phone applications
- ▶ statistical products and services that provide appropriate levels of self-service access to macro and microdata, including TableBuilder and ABS.Stat
- ▶ statistical communication information and referral services for the community, business, government and media
- ▶ comprehensive, sustained and targeted communication that profiles ABS collections, resources, products, services and expertise.

DEVELOPMENTS

The main medium-term developments in the program are to:

- ▶ implement an ABS enterprise communication strategy to manage and enhance the ABS reputation and brand, improve effectiveness of internal and external communication, and maintain strong community awareness and support for the next Census of Population and Housing in 2016 – due December 2015
- ▶ continually improve the access, search and analytic capabilities of the ABS website, including the ability to view data as dynamic tables, graphs, maps and visualisations as well as machine-to-machine web services – ongoing
- ▶ engage with User Groups and customers of ABS products to ensure partner requirements and feedback are solicited, and wherever possible used, to improve the value and use of ABS data – ongoing
- ▶ maintain compliance with standards for online accessibility, privacy, security and other mandatory requirements, as well as with the Australian Government Digital Service Standard – ongoing.

Program Managers

Ruth McArdle (A/g)
*Communications &
Dissemination Branch*

Michael Beahan
Disseminate Branch

Bindi Kindermann (A/g)
*Data Integration
Microdata Futures Branch*

Resources

There is no direct resource allocation since employees working on this program are paid from other programs.

MICRODATA FUTURES

OBJECTIVES

Governments, businesses and the community have all identified that there is an opportunity for a more productive and prosperous society through improved research and better informed policy. Unlocking the power of statistical collections through enhanced microdata access, while maintaining appropriate protection for personal information, has been identified as central in the ABS's transformation program.

Microdata Futures is a short-term program that will identify and act quickly on the gaps in the provision of microdata access services to clients and contribute to short and medium-term solutions. The program brings a central focus to innovations that will transform ABS microdata dissemination.

OUTPUTS

The ABS Statistical Business Transformation program has prioritised delivery of a set of improved microdata access services within the first 12 months as part of initial infrastructure investment. The main outputs for 2015-16 are:

- ▶ implementation of a new approach to disclosure risk management consistent with current legislation
- ▶ modernised policy and business models for microdata partnerships
- ▶ articulation of business requirements to guide development of online delivery of microdata in the ABS Statistical Business Transformation program
- ▶ an enhanced TableBuilder service
- ▶ expanded functionality and use of the ABS Data Laboratory.

DEVELOPMENTS

The main medium-term developments are to:

- ▶ ensure that the development and implementation of online delivery of microdata through the ABS Statistical Business Transformation program meets stakeholder needs
- ▶ build and maintain key partnerships and improve promotion of microdata solutions and services
- ▶ progress opportunities arising from Government investment in the ABS to develop a whole-of-government microdata dissemination capability.

Program Manager

Andrew Henderson
Data Acquisition &
Provider Management
Branch

Resources

Program costs	\$m
2015-16	46.1
2016-17	40.8
2017-18	39.2

The level of funding for this program in the out-years has not been agreed.

DATA ACQUISITION AND PROVIDER MANAGEMENT

OBJECTIVES

The Data Acquisition and Provider Management program provides a comprehensive statistical data collection service for the ABS that also encompasses administrative data acquisition. The program is leading the review, development and implementation of provider management strategies for the ABS. In undertaking these functions it supports the ABS's objectives by providing a high quality, timely and cost effective service while maintaining the trust and cooperation of providers through a range of measures, including: efficient and effective data collection operations; developing and maintaining a skilled and committed home and office-based interviewer workforce; upholding the confidentiality of information provided to the ABS; and continually improving processes and instruments to improve ABS interaction with providers.

OUTPUTS

The main outputs of the program are:

- ▶ data collection and capture including the capabilities, procedures and instruments for all ABS collections
- ▶ an active provider engagement strategy to ensure a continued high level of public trust and provider cooperation
- ▶ provision of the central administrative data acquisition service for the ABS
- ▶ sample management for ABS household surveys
- ▶ advice to subject matter areas on data acquisition strategies encompassing online forms and other modes.

DEVELOPMENTS

The main medium-term developments in the program are focused around the ongoing transformation of collection processes and facilities. Key aspects of this modernisation are to:

- ▶ consolidate operations with an increased focus on improving provider experience, including the relocation of many functions to a new ABS office in Geelong – due June 2017
- ▶ continue to achieve benefits for the ABS and providers of household and business collection through improvements to the usability, functionality and editing capabilities of collection modes – ongoing
- ▶ further expand online reporting capability for business collections – ongoing
- ▶ optimise the Monthly Population Survey online form and implement online reporting capability for other household surveys – ongoing
- ▶ implement a new ABS data acquisition business model to harmonise business and household data collection and respondent interactions – ongoing
- ▶ establish requirements for enterprise capabilities to meet data acquisition functions – ongoing
- ▶ commence integration of online reporting capabilities with foundation infrastructure – ongoing.

Program Manager

Celia Moss
Transforming People
Statistics Branch

Resources

Program costs	\$m
2015-16	2.8
2016-17	1.1
2017-18	0.6

The level of funding for this program in the out-years has not been agreed.

GEOGRAPHY

OBJECTIVES

The key objective of the Geography program is to provide geospatial leadership in the statistical production process.

The specific objectives for the program are to:

- ▶ improve the integration of statistical and spatial information through the development and implementation of a Statistical Spatial Framework (SSF) and engagement with producers and users of statistical information within ABS, the national statistical system, and internationally
- ▶ develop and apply geospatial capability, standards and processes, particularly with the ABS Statistical Business Transformation program, to improve the collection, production, dissemination and integration of spatial statistics
- ▶ provide geospatial data management, infrastructure, geographic analysis, mapping and geospatial services.

OUTPUTS

The program's key outputs relate to the core elements of the SSF and the development and application of geospatial capability in the ABS. These include:

- ▶ engagement activities with various users and producers to provide opportunities to share information, provide input to, and encourage adoption of the SSF, Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) and other geospatial tools, data and technologies
- ▶ documentation and supporting material for the SSF, including the framework, which is available on the National Statistical Service website
- ▶ the publication of ASGS, a statistical geography standard that includes the geographic boundary and code definitions provided as ABS geospatial web services
- ▶ a statistical geography web portal that provides information on geographic classifications and supporting information, and a web based mapping tool to visualise ABS geography
- ▶ final enumeration geographies for the 2016 Census of Population and Housing
- ▶ maintenance of the ABS Master Spatial Database, including incorporation of Public Sector Mapping Agencies data, including the Geocoded National Address File
- ▶ enterprise geospatial capabilities, including network analysis, geospatial visualisation and corporate solutions for address coding, address matching and validation
- ▶ geospatial capability and support services for the execution of statistical programs including the Census of Population and Housing, the Carbon Farming Initiative and production of environmental accounts.

DEVELOPMENTS

The main medium-term developments in the program are to:

- ▶ review the scope and effectiveness of the 2011 ASGS and revise it for 2016 – due mid 2016
- ▶ further develop and promote the SSF within all levels of Australian governments, nationally and internationally – ongoing
- ▶ in collaboration with the Department of Communications, contribute to the improvement of the National Foundation Spatial Data Framework by leading work on the Administrative Boundaries Theme – ongoing
- ▶ contribute to the ABS Statistical Business Transformation program, particularly by integrating the ASGS and broader geospatial capabilities into the new foundation infrastructure – ongoing
- ▶ continue to develop new geospatial techniques and data sources to support statistical production, especially for the Population and Agricultural Censuses and Environmental Accounts – ongoing.

Program Manager

Bindi Kindermann (A/g)
Data Integration
Microdata Futures Branch

Resources

Program costs	\$m
2015-16	1.8
2016-17	1.2
2017-18	1.3

ABS CENTRE FOR DATA INTEGRATION

OBJECTIVES

The key objective of the ABS Centre for Data Integration is to build strong partnerships with data custodians, users and the Australian community in unleashing the full value of existing data sources to contribute to the evidence base needed to inform on a range of important social, economic and environmental issues.

Statistical data integration brings together existing data sources or collections to create new datasets for statistical, policy and research purposes. Integrated datasets provide increased access to government held data, an efficient way of meeting current and emerging information requirements as well as the opportunity to more effectively support policy development, research and discussion.

The ABS Centre for Data Integration undertakes a range of data integration projects in partnership with data custodians and users. It supports best practice in conducting data integration projects through the development of infrastructure, resources and tools, and manages internal policy and governance arrangements. This ensures the ABS is able to innovate in the harvesting of existing data to contribute to the evidence base needed and is able to undertake high risk integration projects, including those involving the linkage of sensitive data.

In addition, the ABS also provides strategic and collaborative leadership through participation in the governance arrangements for data integration involving Commonwealth data for statistical and research purposes. The ABS provides the Secretariat for this important Australian Government initiative. Further information is available from the National Statistical Services website: <http://www.nss.gov.au>.

OUTPUTS

The main outputs from the ABS data integration program include the integration of existing Census, survey, transactional and administrative data sources to deliver new insights on the interrelationships between factors across social, economic and environmental domains. Key flagship data integration projects include the:

- ▶ Business Longitudinal Database which allows analysts to monitor and evaluate the impacts of policies and industry trends on Australian businesses at the individual business level: Microdata: Business Longitudinal Database (cat. no. 8168.0.55.001)
- ▶ Australian Census Longitudinal Dataset, which links 2006 and 2011 Census records longitudinally and successive Censuses to build a picture of how social and economic pathways vary for a diverse range of population sub-groups over the long-term: Microdata: Australian Census Longitudinal Dataset (cat. no. 2080.0).

DEVELOPMENTS

The main medium-term developments are to:

- ▶ lead the creation of enduring, foundational data linkage systems that maximise the use of vast ABS and non-ABS data holdings for research purposes – due 2015-16
- ▶ unlock the value of key integrated datasets through improved access and linkage arrangements that better meet user needs while appropriately managing confidentiality requirements – due 2015-16
- ▶ build and maintain key partnerships to make better use of currently available and emerging information sources, obtainable through government, commercial or community sources – ongoing
- ▶ drive innovation for statistics and research that capitalises on new opportunities presented by information sources and linkage methodologies – due 2018-19.

Program Manager

Graeme Brown
Statistical Infrastructure &
International Branch

Resources

Program costs	\$m
2015-16	5.2
2016-17	5.4
2017-18	5.4

ABS BUSINESS REGISTER

OBJECTIVES

The ABS Business Register program aims to produce the most comprehensive and accurate Business Register (a list of organisations that participate in Australia's formal economy) possible, including structural and classification information about each organisation. The data on the ABS Business Register are used to: provide frames for ABS economic collections; provide information to support ABS economic survey processes; produce statistics on ABS Business Demography; and facilitate the integration of direct collect and administrative economic data within the ABS.

The data on the ABS Business Register are primarily sourced from the Australian Business Register (ABR), the Australian Tax Office (ATO) and from the ABS profiling of large, complex businesses. The unit record information on the ABS Business Register is not available for release outside of ABS.

OUTPUTS

The main outputs derived from the ABS Business Register are:

- ▶ survey frames for use in ABS economic data collection
- ▶ information to support ABS economic survey processes including data editing
- ▶ business demography information published in Counts of Australian Businesses, including Entries and Exits (cat. no. 8165.0)
- ▶ business structure reports for internal analysis and research and to meet client requests by Australian and state government agencies and industry associations at the aggregate level
- ▶ infrastructure to support the use of administrative economic data.

DEVELOPMENTS

The main medium-term developments in the program are to:

- ▶ provide technical assistance, fully funded by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, on Business Registers to priority countries in Asia and the Pacific region – due December 2015
- ▶ migrate the international investment collection to the ABS Business Register – due June 2016
- ▶ re-develop the ABS Business Register to be the integrating spine for all firm-level data and provide the infrastructure for unit and small area statistical products – due December 2017
- ▶ work with the ABR and ATO to improve quality in ABR and ATO indicator series – ongoing
- ▶ geospatially enable the ABS Business Register – ongoing.

Program Manager

Sybilie McKeown (A/g)
Transformation Projects
Branch

Resources

Program costs	\$m
2015-16	9.0
2016-17	4.3
2017-18	4.3

The level of funding for this program in the out-years has not been agreed.

ANALYTICAL SERVICES

OBJECTIVES

The Analytical Services program provides methodological expertise in statistical analysis to underpin the production of high quality statistics, to manage and mitigate statistical risks, and to exploit opportunities presented by the emerging information economy. Activities that support statistical production and the ABS transformation program are key focus areas for the medium-term. These activities include supporting analysis of time series data, data integration and confidentialisation methods, and innovative analytical methods for emerging data sources (e.g. big data).

The program contributes to the delivery and continued improvement of ABS statistical outputs by providing analytical products and methodological advice to both users and producers of statistics.

OUTPUTS

The main outputs of the program are:

- ▶ ongoing seasonal adjustment of critical time series used by Australian Government economic policy agencies, state and territory governments, and local government service delivery agencies
- ▶ methods, tools and practices that improve the quality or reduce the cost and time taken of current statistical production, and advance new directions in data access, integration and analysis, with particular emphasis on emerging data sources (administrative, transactional, and sensor data)
- ▶ methodological advice and assistance to users and producers of statistics within and external to the ABS – in areas such as data linking, disclosure control, longitudinal data analysis, small area estimation, time series analysis, demographic analysis, and econometric modelling.

The research outputs of the program are released in a series of Research Papers, and are routinely published in journal articles and conference papers. Time series products and analyses appear in many ABS publications on a regular basis.

DEVELOPMENTS

The main medium-term developments in the program are to:

- ▶ conduct a big data feasibility study in harnessing satellite imagery data for agricultural statistics – due December 2015
- ▶ develop a prototype next generation business register that can serve as a flexible and scalable data integration spine for heterogeneous economic data – Phase 3 due March 2016
- ▶ evaluate new methods (e.g. model-based methods) and tools for seasonal adjustment to contribute to the ABS's transformation program – due June 2016
- ▶ develop methodology for the integration and confidentialisation of multiple datasets – due December 2016
- ▶ develop and implement new approaches for the confidentialisation of business microdata – due December 2016
- ▶ develop methodology for dynamic and longitudinal microsimulation in demographic analysis – due June 2017
- ▶ support collaborations on harnessing big data, in particular, with:
 - Statistics New Zealand (SNZ) on using semantic web methodology – ABS will help SNZ create a flexible analytical platform for the NZ Linked Employer Employee Dataset (LEED) (which provides statistics on jobs, worker flows, earnings etc) and SNZ will advise the ABS on how to productionise an Australian LEED and assess the potential analytical use – due June 2016
 - task teams under the UN Global Working Group on Big Data for Official Statistics, working to make better use of satellite imagery and geospatial data for official statistics by reporting on solutions to methodological, IT and privacy challenges and undertaking pilot studies on the use of this data – due December 2017
 - the Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence for Mathematical and Statistical Frontiers, to deliver research and outcomes which address the business problems (for areas such as big data, data integration and small area estimation) of industry partners including the ABS – until 2021
- ▶ develop methodology for longitudinal analysis, visualisation methods and tools for exploratory data analysis – due June 2017
- ▶ conduct semantic web demonstration projects using the graphically linked information discovery environment to improve the ABS's analytical capability in representing, transforming, integrating and analysing complex, multidimensional data from diverse sources – ongoing.

Program Manager

Paul Schubert
Statistical Services Branch

Resources

Program costs	\$m
2015-16	5.0
2016-17	8.4
2017-18	8.3

The level of funding for this program in the out-years has not been agreed.

STATISTICAL SERVICES

OBJECTIVES

The Statistical Services program provides specialist services to meet new and ongoing demands in official statistics.

The program has specific responsibilities for supporting statistical collection and production processes and providing leadership in developing the future methodological infrastructure of the ABS.

The program also aims to minimise the load on data providers through efficient data collection methods, sample designs, techniques to control sample overlap between surveys and, in the case of Australian business surveys, through reviews and approvals by the Australian Government Statistical Clearing House.

OUTPUTS

The program's main internal products include reports and advice on:

- ▶ methods for making use of, and quality assuring, administrative data for statistical purposes
- ▶ sample design, estimation and other survey related methodological issues
- ▶ research into new methods to meet future statistical needs
- ▶ issues affecting the quality of the ABS's statistical products.

Current research is published on the ABS website through the Methodology Advisory Committee Papers.

The Statistical Clearing House produces an annual report of all surveys directed to 50 or more businesses conducted by Commonwealth agencies during each fiscal year. It also promulgates and promotes survey best practices in agencies conducting business surveys. Information can be found on the National Statistical Service website: www.nss.gov.au.

DEVELOPMENTS

The main medium-term developments are to:

- ▶ implement methodologies for supporting multi-modal data collection for conducting and processing the Census of Population and Housing and household surveys – due February 2016
- ▶ investigate estimation techniques that incorporate external sources of data in order to reduce the volatility of monthly labour force estimates – due June 2016
- ▶ implement quality gates for all Main Economic Indicators, supported by enhanced documentation, guidelines and training modules – due June 2016
- ▶ develop improved methods for monitoring and measuring the statistical impacts due to changes in methods or processes – due June 2016
- ▶ develop the sampling framework, methods and procedures to support better integrated business and household survey vehicles – due December 2016
- ▶ develop strategies for evaluating and optimising the use of whole-of-government technologies in provider management processes – due June 2017
- ▶ implement a vision for quality management in the production environment created by the Statistical Business Transformation program – due June 2017
- ▶ develop flexible workload allocation methods to support the vision for an integrated workforce in the Survey Management Centre of Excellence (Geelong) – due June 2017
- ▶ research and develop question wording standards to enable more efficient multi-modal data collection instrument generation while managing quality impacts – due June 2018
- ▶ assist the implementation of new methods and tools that are part of the methodological architecture to support more integrated ABS statistical collections and products – due June 2019.

Program Manager

Graeme Brown
Statistical Infrastructure &
International Branch

Resources

Program costs	\$m
2015-16	3.7
2016-17	1.5
2017-18	1.5

The level of funding for this program in the out-years has not been agreed.

STANDARDS AND CLASSIFICATIONS

OBJECTIVES

The Standards and Classifications program aims to facilitate the comparability, integration, coherence and quality of ABS statistics by providing conceptual and infrastructure support and through the adoption of standard concepts, definitions, classifications, and procedures.

The program aims to support the statistical collection process, mitigate statistical risk, enhance capability, and provide statistical information management leadership to the statistical community. The program seeks to achieve this by: setting and reviewing ABS policies and principles for key statistical collection methods, standards and classifications; providing leadership and support to subject matter areas on the implementation of key standards, practices and procedures; and building capability in standards, concepts and classifications within the ABS and National Statistical Service.

OUTPUTS

The key outputs and activities of the program are:

- ▶ development and maintenance of key national standards on statistical units, concepts, definitions, questions and classifications that underpin population, social, economic and environmental statistics
- ▶ support for the Statistical Business Transformation program to improve statistical coherence and metadata governance
- ▶ support to build capability in subject matter areas in the use and/or development of statistical collection methods, standards and associated tools for their implementation
- ▶ maintenance and improvement of automated coding facilities and coding indexes.

DEVELOPMENTS

The main medium-term developments in the program are to:

- ▶ develop, in partnership with methodology and statistical areas, the ABS's future coding strategy – due December 2015
- ▶ review the demographic, occupation, qualification and industry coding indexes in the lead up to the 2016 Census – due June 2016
- ▶ influence international developments regarding the interoperability of geospatial and statistical metadata standards and their use in international statistical infrastructure and process standards – due December 2016
- ▶ review labour force standards – due June 2017
- ▶ contribute to the international review of the standard industry classification – ongoing
- ▶ support, through the Statistical Business Transformation program, transformation of statistical metadata content – due June 2018
- ▶ review family related standards, household income and housing standards, ancestry and citizenship standards – due June 2018
- ▶ promulgate, and increase awareness of, relevant standards for population, social, economic and environmental statistics – ongoing.

CORPORATE SUPPORT



General Manager

Patrick Hadley
Technology Services
Division

Program Managers

Chris Duffy
Technology Applications
Branch

Helen Robson (A/g)
Technology Infrastructure
Branch

Lane Masterton
Technology Capability
Branch

Resources

Program costs	\$m
2015-16	50.8
2016-17	44.6
2017-18	41.7

The level of funding for this program in the out-years has not been agreed.

TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

OBJECTIVES

The Technology Services program provides strong leadership in innovation through new approaches and application of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) to support ABS business.

The key objectives for the program are to:

- ▶ provide effective technology support to statistical programs and the ABS workforce
- ▶ deliver the enabling ICT capabilities for the Statistical Business Transformation program
- ▶ ensure the ABS leverages information technology strategically to support its vision and enable transformation
- ▶ ensure the ABS has effective and compliant security policies, practices and procedures
- ▶ represent the ABS and build strategic relationships in the broader ICT industry, government and international statistical communities in relation to ICT and security matters
- ▶ ensure consistency with, and support to, whole-of-government technology strategies for e-Government and the digital economy
- ▶ ensure sustainability of ICT investments and services through building and maintaining a highly capable and motivated ICT workforce.

OUTPUTS

The main outputs of the program are:

- ▶ enterprise wide technology solutions to support statistical and business processes for the ABS
- ▶ consistent and measurable services for business and application analysis, design, programming, acquisition and commissioning services to help improve ABS business processes
- ▶ reliable, cost effective and secure technology infrastructure, library and knowledge management services
- ▶ ICT services to support the production of ABS leading statistical indicators
- ▶ enabling technology for the 2016 Census of Population and Housing
- ▶ enabling technology for the Statistical Business Transformation program.

DEVELOPMENTS

The main medium-term developments in the program are to:

- ▶ provide ICT services and systems for the 2016 Census of Population and Housing and continued development for dissemination products – due July 2017
- ▶ undertake improvements to security programs to meet new business requirements, ICT services and government compliance – ongoing
- ▶ lead and support ABS innovation initiatives – ongoing
- ▶ strengthen internal processes and approaches through the adoption of industry standards, methodologies and tools – ongoing
- ▶ provide ICT leadership and support to the Statistical Business Transformation capability projects with Acquire, Process and Analyse, Disseminate and Foundation Infrastructure, as well as within the core statistical programs – Transforming Economic Statistics, Transforming People Statistics and Data Integration – ongoing
- ▶ manage the delivery of enabling services to the Transformation program including role based access and integration middle-ware – ongoing.

Chief Financial Officer

Warren Rushby (A/g)
Chief Financial Officer
Branch

Resources

Program costs	\$m
2015-16	6.9
2016-17	5.9
2017-18	5.9

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

OBJECTIVES

The Financial Management program provides services in the areas of financial management, governance, procurement, contract administration and travel services to enable the ABS to achieve its strategic directions. The key objectives of the program are: providing timely, relevant, high quality and best practice financial and business services to enable the optimal allocation and use of resources; engaging with whole-of-government initiatives to help achieve the best outcome; and providing high quality timely and comprehensive management information.

OUTPUTS

The main outputs and outcomes of the Financial Management program are to:

- ▶ manage financial risk, and ensure financial compliance, in partnership with ABS business areas
- ▶ provide clear and unambiguous internal reporting to the ABS Executive to enable informed decision making
- ▶ empower managers with knowledge to manage their resources to achieve maximum value for money
- ▶ provide counsel on allocating finite resources to priority work programs
- ▶ provide accurate and high quality financial budgeting and reporting to the Department of Finance
- ▶ provide high quality policy advice, information and administrative travel related services for all ABS officials
- ▶ provide expert procurement advice and service
- ▶ manage the ABS's assets and capital expenditure effectively.

DEVELOPMENTS

The main medium-term developments in the program are to:

- ▶ provide leadership in supporting the ABS transformation by ensuring internal financial targets and budgets are fully consistent with the strategic plan and relevant agreements with government – ongoing
- ▶ optimise, upgrade and integrate financial systems and associated management information, shared services – development and implementation of an ABS Financial Management System will begin in 2015-16
- ▶ continue to enhance client service capability and culture via the corporate services delivery model – ongoing
- ▶ improve management information for decision making – ongoing.

General Manager

Chris Libreri (A/g)
Governance, People &
Culture Division

Program Managers

Ruth McArdle (A/g)
Communications &
Dissemination Branch

Donna Nicholson (A/g)
Human Resources Branch

Christine Williams
Governance &
Parliamentary Liaison
Branch

Resources

Program costs	\$m
2015-16	106.2
2016-17	107.8
2017-18	108.6

CORPORATE SERVICES

OBJECTIVES

The Corporate Services program provides services in the areas of governance, human resources, property and external engagement to help the ABS achieve its strategic directions.

The key objectives of the program are to:

- ▶ provide timely, relevant, high quality and best practice corporate and property services with a customer and business focus to meet the changing needs of internal and external clients
- ▶ engage and influence stakeholders to ensure the ABS's interests are considered and accommodated, including in whole-of-government initiatives
- ▶ position the ABS to meet its current and future workforce needs
- ▶ provide high quality corporate infrastructure, and timely and comprehensive management information
- ▶ lead the ABS in the areas of culture, policy, legislation, legal compliance, leadership capability development, promoting and protecting the ABS brand and reputation, flexible workplace arrangements and people management.

OUTPUTS

The main outputs of the Corporate Services program are:

- ▶ a full range of integrated and coordinated services to support the human resources life cycle, from recruitment through to retirement
- ▶ a managed property portfolio that incorporates flexible working principles and the opening of a Geelong Office as a centre of excellence for survey management
- ▶ leadership, support and guidance (including building capability) to ensure the ABS is maximising the potential of individual employees
- ▶ leadership and consultancy on workforce and business planning, business continuity, property, legislation, legal compliance, policies and risk management to support a more flexible, agile ABS
- ▶ maintenance and development of corporate support systems and services.

DEVELOPMENTS

The main medium-term developments in the program are to:

- ▶ provide leadership in supporting the ABS transformation by updating relevant policies and raise awareness to ensure the ABS's continued compliance with legislation – ongoing
- ▶ implement changed employment arrangements resulting from the new Enterprise Agreements for ABS employees and negotiate the next Enterprise Agreements within the boundaries of the Australian Government Public Sector Workplace Bargaining Policy – ongoing
- ▶ continue to enhance client service capability and culture via the corporate services delivery model – ongoing
- ▶ implement the key ABS People Plan strategies including those related to workforce planning, people and performance management, high performance, learning and development, flexible working, leadership and general capability enhancement, and cultural renewal – ongoing
- ▶ continued implementation of the ABS People Capability Framework to enhance our people and workforce planning – workforce capability plan for transformation, census and business execution – ongoing
- ▶ support the business outputs of the ABS by ensuring the ongoing development and maintenance of statistical capability, leadership and business skills in the workforce – ongoing
- ▶ improve management information for decision making – ongoing.

Program Manager

Graeme Brown
Statistical Infrastructure &
International Branch

Resources

Program costs	\$m
2015-16	5.1
2016-17	2.7
2017-18	2.0

The level of funding for this program in the out-years has not yet been agreed.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND REGIONAL STATISTICAL DEVELOPMENT

OBJECTIVES

The key objectives of the ABS's International Relations and Regional Statistical Development program are to:

- ▶ review and refresh the International Relations Strategy to ensure ABS maintains a high profile and outstanding reputation as an engaged and active statistical leader
- ▶ shape and influence national and international discussions regarding statistical frameworks, strategies and policies
- ▶ build strong statistical capacity and capability in priority countries in Asia and the Pacific region
- ▶ support Australia's foreign policy and aid development objectives
- ▶ monitor performance and compliance across the various components of the program by undertaking audits and reviews of the program.

OUTPUTS

The main outputs and outcomes of the program are to:

- ▶ increase the pool of expertise, and reduce the cost of re-development, in order to harmonise statistical methods, systems and capabilities to achieve mutual benefits across all participating National Statistical Offices (NSOs)
- ▶ implement the revised ABS International Relations Strategy, taking account of current organisational and government priorities
- ▶ support the growing importance of comparable international data in the global economy by meeting the increasing demand to produce high quality, timely and consistent statistics
- ▶ continue to focus on Asia and the Pacific region, with a model of engagement that supports a proactive voice from this region
- ▶ administer the funding received from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) to implement the delivery of high quality statistical improvement initiatives in priority countries in Asia and the Pacific region
- ▶ develop an integrated statistical capability framework that supports developing NSOs, particularly in meeting international standards in compiling and producing statistics.

DEVELOPMENTS

The program medium-term developments are to:

- ▶ engage in collaborative projects with other NSOs, including new dissemination and collections systems, processes for collecting administrative data, and common metadata frameworks – ongoing
- ▶ work with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe on the modernisation of statistical infrastructure – ongoing
- ▶ with the support of DFAT, deliver a range of improved outcomes for statistical initiatives in Papua New Guinea (2015-16 only), Indonesia, the Pacific Region, Fiji, and Timor-Leste – ongoing
- ▶ through targeted collaboration, enhance the ABS's engagement with key countries to provide an opportunity to increase the pool of expertise, and reduce the cost of re-development via co-designed and co-developed projects – ongoing
- ▶ provide strategic advice to support ABS Executive engagement in key international statistical fora such as the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, United Nations Statistical Commission, and the United Nations Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific region – ongoing.

FORWARD WORK PROGRAM BY TIER



TIER EXPLANATORY NOTES

1. The tables below present lists of the ABS's statistical program components as categorised by four tiers outlined below.
2. The four tiers used to categorise the ABS's statistical work program are as follows:

Tier 0: Essential institutional statistical capability and infrastructure required to deliver a quality national statistical service and remain relevant and sustainable as Australia's national statistical organisation.

This includes systems and processes, methods, people capability, register and frames and standards, classifications and conceptual frameworks, statistical coordination, dissemination and technology capabilities.

Tier 1: Statistics that are considered to be the foundation work of a national statistical organisation.

Tier 2: Important areas of statistics where there is a significant government outlay or where there is a significant public policy interest.

Tier 3: Other important statistical work that is currently undertaken to meet identified user requirements that could be deemed as falling beyond tiers 1 and 2.

UF: User Funded. This component identifies statistical work currently undertaken that is fully user funded.

STATISTICAL PARTNERSHIPS STREAM

Program Name	Tier	Description
Strategic Partnerships	0	The tier 0 component of the Strategic Partnerships program provides core capability and infrastructure to ensure ABS meets its legislated role to provide statistical services to the governments of the states and territories and to provide advice and assistance to official bodies in relation to statistics.
Strategic Partnerships	3	The tier 3 component of the Strategic Partnerships program is partly user funded and provides extended capability and infrastructure to provide a broader base of statistical services to the governments of the states and territories.

STATISTICAL PRODUCTION STREAM

Statistical Production		
Program Name	Tier	Description
Analytical Services	0	The tier 0 component of the Analytical Services program comprises capability and infrastructure needed to support the compilation and analysis of ABS statistics and to present them according to scientific standards on sources, methods and procedures.
Dissemination Services	0	Dissemination of ABS statistics through the Worldwide Web, social media, and other electronic communication mechanisms.
Microdata Delivery	0	Capacity and infrastructure to deliver microdata services to governments, researchers and the public.
Building and Construction Statistics	1	The Building and Construction program produces a range of statistics about dwelling and other building approvals as well as construction related gross fixed capital formation in Australia, from the Building Activity and Approvals collections and the Engineering Construction collection. Some components of these statistics are essential for the compilation of the National Accounts.
Business Indicators	1	The tier 1 component of the Business Indicators program produces statistics related to business activity, conducting three surveys: Private New Capital Expenditure and Expected Expenditure, Quarterly Business Indicator Surveys and Retail Trade. Some components of these statistics are essential for the compilation of the National Accounts.
Census Program	1	Australia's Census of Population and Housing measures the number and key characteristics of people in Australia. It is essential to the estimation of the population of each state, territory and local government area for electoral purposes and for the distribution of government funds. It is the only source of detailed statistics of the numbers and characteristics of the Australian population and housing within small geographic areas and for small population groups such as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders.
Demography	1	The tier 1 component of the Demography program provides Australian demographic statistics and associated Estimated Resident Population publications, including Births and Deaths, Overseas Arrivals and Departures, Migration and Australian Historical Population statistics. This information is essential to meet several legislative requirements including the <i>Census and Statistics Act</i> , <i>Federal Financial Relations Act</i> and electoral boundary re-distribution. The information is also needed for National Accounts and balance of payments.
Financial Statistics	1	The tier 1 component of the Financial Statistics program is comprised of data collected from the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority (APRA) and the Managed Funds survey, which complements the APRA dataset in collecting data from the unregulated parts of the financial system such as Investment Funds. This information is essential for the compilation of the National Accounts.
Income and Housing	1	The tier 1 component of the Income and Housing program includes the Household Income and Expenditure Survey, Survey of Income and Housing (these surveys are essential to monitor economic and material wellbeing and provide the household sector perspective to the National Accounts) and the Pensioner Household Expenditure Survey.

Statistical Production		
Program Name	Tier	Description
Industry Statistics	1	The tier 1 component of the Industry Statistics program consists of the Economic Activity Survey (partly user funded) which produces estimates of the economic and financial performance of Australian industry: income; expenses; industry value added; operating profit before tax; capital expenditure; and selected components of these aggregates and derivations. State/territory estimates of income, employment, and wages and salaries, at the division level are also included. Statistics from this survey are essential for the compilation of the National Accounts.
International Accounts	1	The tier 1 component of the International Accounts program provides statistics on Australia's balance of payments estimates and compilation, international investment statistics, international merchandise trade statistics and international trade in services statistics. Components of the information produced by this program are essential for the compilation of the National Accounts. The survey of foreign currency exposure is user funded.
Labour Statistics	1	The tier 1 component of the Labour Statistics program comprises the key Labour Force Australia Survey (important information for the compilation of the National Accounts and the main source of information on employment, unemployment, utilisation and participation) and a labour statistics leadership, engagement and reporting program which provides advice and assistance to official bodies in relation to statistics, including undertaking national and international developments in relation to concepts, classifications and standards for labour statistics; engaging with stakeholders to determine key priorities; and supporting the analysis of labour statistics.
Macroeconomic research	1	The tier 1 component of the Macroeconomic Research program performs research and development into concepts and methodologies for the compilation of macroeconomic statistics including national, international and public sector accounts, prices and financial statistics. Most of this program is essential to maintain the relevance of the National Accounts.
National Accounts	1	The tier 1 component of the National Accounts program provides quarterly and annual statistics of Gross Domestic Product and its components such as sources and uses of income, expenditure on consumption, capital and imports, gross value added and national savings.
Prices	1	The tier 1 component of the Prices program includes: the Consumer Price Index; the Wage Price Index; a range of Producer Price Indexes and International Trade Price Indexes; and the Pensioner and Beneficiary Living Costs Index.
Public Sector Accounts	1	The Public Sector Accounts program provides Government Finance Statistics in respect of the Australian, state and territory governments, their public financial and non-financial corporations, universities and local governments. The statistics are compiled predominantly from government accounting systems and are essential for the compilation of the Australian National Accounts.

Statistical Production		
Program Name	Tier	Description
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Statistics	2	The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Statistics program includes the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey and provides information essential to monitor the social and economic circumstances of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. The program also provides statistical leadership in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander statistics research, development, leadership, engagement and reporting, as well as the Indigenous Community Engagement Strategy which enhances the ABS's engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and organisations to increase data quality and statistical capability and to manage reporting load. Additional ongoing appropriation was provided to the ABS in 2009 to support this program in recognition of its importance to national performance reporting.
Agriculture Statistics	2	The tier 2 component of the Agriculture Statistics program includes the five yearly Agricultural Census (partly user funded), the Rural Environment and Agriculture Commodities Survey (partly user funded) and data on the value of agricultural commodities produced.
Analytical Services	2	The tier 2 component of the Analytical Services program focuses on activities that support statistical production. These activities include supporting analysis of time series data, data integration and confidentialisation methods, and innovative analytical methods for emerging data sources (e.g. big data analytics).
Crime & Justice Statistics	2	The tier 2 component of the Crime and Justice Statistics program undertakes crime and justice statistics research, development, leadership, engagement and reporting on a partly user funded basis. It also provides headline indicators of crime victimisation and information about reporting to police to determine the proportion of crime that does not come to the attention of police. Also included is information about the characteristics of both the victim and incident for selected offences.
Demography	2	The tier 2 component of the Demography program produces estimates and population projections for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, general population projections (an essential input into forecasts and reports such as the Intergenerational Report) and regional population growth (providing a significant evidence base for sub-state planning and infrastructure analysis).
Education and Training Statistics	2	The tier 2 component of the Education and Training Statistics program includes the National Schools Statistics Collection, the Qualifications and Employment Outcomes Survey, the Survey of Education and Work, and the Work Related Training and Adult Learning Survey. ABS also acts as secretariat to the Strategic Cross-Sectoral Data Committee on a partly user funded basis under this tier.
Environment Statistics	2	The tier 2 component of the Environment Statistics program comprises the Water Account which provides information on the physical and monetary supply and use of water in the Australian economy. It also provides information on the water use and consumptive practices of key industries (agriculture, water supply, sewerage and drainage) and households.

Statistical Production		
Program Name	Tier	Description
Financial Statistics	2	The Tier 2 component of the Financial Statistics program comprises housing finance statistics. This includes monthly information on finance commitments for owner occupation and investment housing, as well as balances outstanding on housing finance loans. Finance commitments by banks and other financial institutions are also covered, including whether the loans are at fixed or variable rates.
Health & Disability Statistics	2	The tier 2 component of the Health and Disability program includes statistics relating to causes of death, and partly user funded health and disability statistics research, development, leadership, engagement and reporting. The key National Health Survey, which is partly user funded, is included in this tier, along with the Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers which was predominantly funded by the ABS in 2015 but will be user funded for its next cycle in 2018.
Household Surveys	2	The tier 2 component of the Household Surveys program includes the General Social Survey which collects data on a range of social dimensions from the same individual to enable analysis of the interrelationships in social circumstances and outcomes, including the exploration of multiple advantage and disadvantage experienced by that individual.
Industry Statistics	2	The tier 2 component of the Industry Statistics program comprises statistics on the use of water by industry, the supply and use of energy, environmental management activities undertaken, motivations for implementing improved environmental management, and barriers to reducing energy consumption and/or improving energy efficiency as well as statistics on the supply of water by industry and the supply and use of sewerage.
Innovation and Technology Statistics	2	The tier 2 component of the Innovation and Technology Statistics program produces statistics to assist understanding of the impact of research and experimental development, innovation and new technologies on economic and social outcomes. It includes the Business Characteristics Survey which is partly user funded.
Labour Statistics	2	The tier 2 component of the Labour Statistics program includes key surveys including Barriers & Incentives to Labour Force Participation, Characteristics of Employment, Industrial Disputes, Job Vacancies Survey, Participation, Job Search and Mobility, Retirement & Retirement Intentions, the Survey of Average Weekly Earnings (part of the Survey of Average Weekly Earnings is in this tier and part is in tier 3) and the Survey of Employee Earnings and Hours.
Migrant Statistics	2	The tier 2 component of the Migrant Statistics program, which is partly user funded, includes information produced on migrant economic outcomes and migrant settlement outcomes.
National Accounts	2	The tier 2 component of the National Accounts program is comprised of: input-output tables which include information about the supply and use of products in the Australian economy, and the structure of and inter-relationships between Australian industries; state accounts which provide annual estimates of Gross state product and its major components (including state final demand); and economic analysis and reporting which provides productivity statistics including experimental estimates of industry multifactor productivity.

Statistical Production		
Program Name	Tier	Description
Transport Statistics	2	The tier 2 component of the Transport Statistics program includes the Survey of Motor Vehicle Use which provides estimates for private and commercial vehicles registered for road use with a motor vehicle registration authority; by state/territory of registration, area of operation, number of vehicles, total and average kilometres travelled, vehicle usage, fuel consumption and load carried. Bus statistics include kilometres travelled by main type of service.
Agriculture Statistics	3	The tier 3 component of the Agriculture Statistics program comprises information on the foreign ownership of agricultural businesses, land and water entitlements, and estimates of the weight of taxable wool received by brokers and dealers, by calendar quarter, by state of receipt and Australia. Also included is the total number of livestock slaughtered by smaller abattoirs and the number of poultry and game birds slaughtered by state and Australia. The livestock slaughtered component of this tier is partly user funded.
Business Indicators	3	The tier 3 component of the Business Indicators program comprises mineral and petroleum exploration details and actual and expected expenditure by private organisations exploring for minerals and petroleum. This information is essential for the compilation of the National Accounts.
Demography	3	The tier 3 component of the Demography program provides statistics on marriages and divorces.
Education and Training Statistics	3	The tier 3 component of the Education and Training Statistics program incorporates the Childhood Education and Care survey which provides information on the use of formal and informal child care and on early childhood education and learning, the education, income and working patterns of parents; working arrangements used by parents to help care for their children; and levels of unmet demand for formal care.
Environment Statistics	3	The tier 3 component of the Environment Statistics program includes Accounts Research (including international engagement and support), Australian environmental accounts, estimates of energy intensity and supply and use of energy products in Australia (in the Energy Account), and experimental estimates for Natural Resource Management regions on land use, land cover and land value (in the Land Account).
Financial Statistics	3	The tier 3 component of the Financial Statistics program comprises quarterly information on the assets and liabilities of securitisers and monthly statistics on lending finance, covering information on commercial, personal and lease finance commitments.
Health & Disability Statistics	3	The tier 3 component of the Health and Disability Statistics program provides information from the Patient Experience Survey and also includes partly user funded private hospitals data.
Household Surveys	3	The tier 3 component of the Household surveys program includes the Family Characteristics survey which collects information on household and family composition, along with demographic and labour force characteristics of persons within households and families.

Statistical Production		
Program Name	Tier	Description
Industry Statistics	3	The tier 3 component of the Industry Statistics program comprises statistics on energy and water, environmental indicators on both a financial and volumetric basis for key industries and industry sector analysis, client engagement, and coordination.
Innovation and Technology Statistics	3	The tier 3 component of the Innovation and Technology Statistics program comprises the Household Use of Information Technology collection, client engagement and coordination related to innovation and technology statistics, the Internet Activity Survey and measures of research and development undertaken by businesses, governments, higher education institutions and private not-for-profit organisations. Components of this are essential for the compilation of National Accounts.
Labour Statistics	3	The tier 3 component of the Labour Statistics program includes surveys and data collection on Industrial Disputes, Major Labour Costs, the remaining parts (not completed by tier 2) of the Survey of Average Weekly Earnings, Survey of Employment and Earnings and Work Related Injuries.
Macroeconomic research	3	The tier 3 component of the Macroeconomic Research program performs extended research and development into concepts and methodologies for the compilation of macroeconomic statistics including national, international and public sector accounts, prices and financial statistics, to maintain conformity with international standards and to maintain the relevance of the accounts in measuring the changing economy.
Migrant Statistics	3	The tier 3 component of the Migrant Statistics program includes Characteristics of Recent Migrants which is partly user funded and provides data on migration category, country of birth, proficiency in spoken English, educational attainment on arrival and since arrival, employment prior to arrival and since arrival, and sources of household income.
Prices	3	The tier 3 component of the Prices program comprises the Residential Property Price Indexes, which are partly user funded. These indexes show the price change of the stock of dwellings over time. The total value of the dwelling stock is also produced.
Regional Statistics	3	The Regional Statistics program aims to understand and support high priority emerging needs for regional statistics by providing relevant analyses, products and services. National Regional Profiles are produced to bring together existing regional statistics into a comprehensive picture of regions and regional Australia.
Social Reporting and Frameworks	3	The Social Reporting and Frameworks program manages the measuring wellbeing framework and provides leadership on the post 2015 development agenda. Partly user funded activities under this tier include Gender Indicators which draws on a wide range of data sources.
Tourism Statistics	3	The tier 3 component of the Tourism program provides capability and infrastructure to fulfil the ABS's legislated role to provide advice and assistance to official bodies in relation to tourism statistics, and ensure the ABS Tourism Statistics program meet the needs of users and stakeholders such as the National Accounts as well as engagement to support Australian tourism sector developments.

Statistical Production		
Program Name	Tier	Description
Transport Statistics	3	The tier 3 component of the Transport Statistics program includes the Motor Vehicle Census, which provides estimates of the number of vehicles on register by type of vehicle (passenger vehicles, light commercial vehicles, rigid trucks, articulated trucks, non-freight carrying trucks, buses and motor cycles), year of manufacture, make, gross vehicle mass and fuel type. The New Motor Vehicles Survey is also in this tier, providing monthly information on sales of new motor vehicles in each state/territory. This is essential for the compilation of the National Accounts.
Crime & Justice Statistics	UF	The user funded component of the Crime and Justice Statistics program comprises surveys that include the national corrective services statistics - prisoners in Australia collection; national criminal courts statistics; national recorded crime offender statistics; national recorded crime victim statistics; and national statistics on federal defendants, sentence quantum, federal offenders and corrective services.
Education and Training Statistics	UF	The user funded component of the Education and Statistics program comprises user funded surveys that include the annual National Early Childhood Education and Care data collection and the program for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies.
Environment Statistics	UF	The user funded component of Environment Statistics comprises the Wealth Accounting and Valuation of Ecosystem Services which is a worldwide program of the World Bank. The ABS has been funded to help develop environmental and natural accounting capacity in Asia-Pacific participant countries, namely the Philippines, Vietnam and Indonesia. Much of the work to date has centred around the development of pilot ecosystem accounts in the Philippines, involving water, waste, energy and all other thematic environmental accounting areas in which the ABS is involved. The ABS has also been fully funded to generate a time series of estimates of employment in renewable energy activities, by state/territory and by type of renewable energy.
Health & Disability Statistics	UF	The user funded component of Health and Disability Statistics comprises user funded collections including the Australian Health Survey (an expansion of the existing ABS health survey), including Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey, and the HealthCare Pathways project which provides information on the continuity of care patients experience as they transition through the health system.
Household Surveys	UF	The user funded component of the Household Surveys program comprises the Household Energy Consumption Survey, the Longitudinal Survey of Australian Children, the Personal Safety Survey and the cultural and creative activity satellite accounts.
Industry Statistics	UF	The user funded component of the Industry Statistics program, the non-profit institutions satellite account, presents estimates of the direct contribution of the non-profit institutions sector to the Australian economy, classified to type of non-profit institution and principal non-profit activities.

Statistical Production		
Program Name	Tier	Description
Innovation and Technology Statistics	UF	The user funded component of the Innovation and Technology Statistics program provides details of Venture Capital and Later Stage Private Equity activity from Venture Capital and Later Stage Private Equity fund managers. The information includes: commitments and drawdowns by source of funds, assets and liabilities of the Venture Capital and Later Stage Private Equity investment vehicles; capital flows between the vehicles, investors and investee companies; and characteristics of venture capital investee companies.
International Accounts	UF	The user funded component of International Accounts comprises the Survey of Foreign Currency. This is user funded by the Reserve Bank of Australia. The survey provides additional information to that available in the International Investment Position, on the mitigating impact of hedging activities on foreign currency exposures.
Tourism Statistics	UF	The user funded component of the Tourism Statistics program includes the Survey of Tourist Accommodation, which provides information on the supply of, and demand for, tourist accommodation, and the Tourism Satellite Account, which presents estimates of the direct contribution of the tourism industry to the economy.
Transport Statistics	UF	The user funded component of the Transport Statistics program covers a feasibility study into improved road freight statistics as part of the Survey of Motor Vehicle Use, including information on origin, destination and commodity.
Agriculture Statistics	UF	The user funded component of the Agriculture Statistics program comprises information on a variety of management practices being adopted by Australian agricultural businesses, including cropping and pasture management, soil management, fertiliser use, natural environment conservation protection, and water use. Data are presented at the Australian, state and regional (Natural Resource Management region) levels.

STATISTICAL INFRASTRUCTURE & SUPPORT STREAM

Program Name	Tier	Description
Statistical Business Transformation program	0	The Statistical Business Transformation program is responsible for designing and developing the next generation of statistical business processes and supporting information infrastructure to provide a platform to reduce costs and burden on providers, bring together various datasets to develop new statistical products more rapidly, and make data available in a form which can be more easily used.
ABS Business Register Unit	0	The ABS Business Register program enables the ABS to maintain a list of economically active businesses in Australia, and key business characteristics such as industry, institutional sector and employment. The ABS Business Register provides frames for ABS economic collections and information to support ABS economic survey processes.
Geography	0	The tier 0 component of the Geography program applies standards and classifications - leading the development and implementation of a Statistical Spatial Framework, providing advice on statistical geography, geospatial technology and techniques, developing and applying geospatial capability, standards and processes, and providing geospatial data management, infrastructure, geographic analysis, mapping and geospatial services to the ABS (e.g. for the Census of Population and Housing), the National Statistical System and internationally.
Standards and Classifications	0	The Standards and Classifications program provides standards and classifications capability and infrastructure needed to fulfil the ABS's legislated role to formulate, and ensure compliance with economic and social statistical standards. This includes ensuring ABS economic statistics programs, such as National Accounts and Consumer Price Index, are coherent and comparable with internationally and nationally recognised statistical standards.
Statistical Services	0	The tier 0 component of the Statistical Services program provides capability and infrastructure in data collection methodology. It provides statistical methods for business and household surveys (sample and estimation support) and the Census (frame, imputation, editing and data collection support). It also includes the Statistical Clearing House, which minimises the burden of Australian Government surveys on businesses by reducing survey duplication and ensuring that proposed business survey methods and questionnaire designs are fit-for-purpose.
ABS Business Register Unit program/Business Demographics	2	The tier 2 component of the ABS Business Register Unit program includes the production of counts of Australian business entries and exits from administrative data sources, as well as administration of the tax data sub-program.
Data Integration	2	This program fulfils the ABS's legislated role to minimise duplication by maximising the use of existing data. Statistical data integration brings together existing data sources or collections to create new datasets for statistical, policy and research purposes. In addition, the ABS also provides strategic and collaborative leadership through participation in the governance arrangements, including provision of secretariat services, for data integration involving Commonwealth data for statistical and research purposes. The provision of secretariat services is partly user funded.

Program Name	Tier	Description
Communications and Dissemination	3	The tier 3 component of the Communications and Dissemination program provides customer insights and strategies which meet the test of practical utility for tomorrow's information needs and support emerging public, private and research sector needs. It also includes Data Access Futures activities which involve research and development into effective microdata dissemination methods that preserve privacy and confidentiality. The tier also includes the National Information and Referral Service which responds to information requests (ongoing annual appropriation was provided to the ABS for this service in 2009).
Statistical Services	3	The tier 3 component of the Statistical Services program is comprised of statistical methods and operations. This includes: undertaking research and development into the scientific methods and processes needed to collect and compile ABS's economic, demographic, social and environmental statistics; and state and territory design restraint on surveys which covers the provision of capability and infrastructure to ensure representation in surveys and data collection is representative for all states and territories.
Geography	UF	The user funded component of the Geography program comprises carbon farming work: undertaking the development of new geospatial techniques and data sources to support ABS involvement in the Australian Government's Carbon Farming Initiative, including development of an agriculture land parcel frame.
Communications and Dissemination	UF	The user funded component of the Communications and Dissemination program comprises Information Consultancy. This provides capacity and infrastructure for a range of information solutions on a fully cost-recovered basis.

CORPORATE SUPPORT STREAM

Program Name	Tier	Description
International Relations and Regional Statistical Development	0	The tier 0 component of the International Relations and Regional Statistical Development program provides capability and infrastructure to fulfil the ABS's legislated role to liaise with international statistical agencies and organisations, with a particular focus on engagement and reporting to the United Nations Statistical Commission, and engagement with other leading international organisations to ensure international standards meet Australia's needs.
International Relations and Regional Statistical Development	UF	The user funded component of the International Relations and Regional Statistical Development program comprises the Indonesia Government Partnership Project, and statistical development programs in the Pacific, Seychelles and Timor-Leste.

